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MARTLET

The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca
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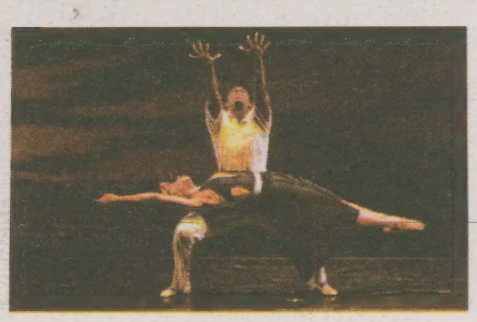

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SEWAGE TREATMENT IN THE CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

keep it PUBLIC!

Public Sewage Treatment
Clean Green Affordable
www.keepwaterpublic.ca

The provincial government has directed the Capital Regional District (CRD) to bring in proper sewage treatment, imposing a very tight – June 30 – deadline for decision-making.

CRD residents have an important decision to make about how new sewage treatment will be developed and operated.

Environics Research asked CRD residents what kind of sewage treatment you want.

here's what you said:

- **It should be public.**

You want the CRD to control and operate sewage treatment. Three-quarters (76%) want the regional district to operate a sewage treatment facility, compared to just 16 per cent who think a private corporation should operate it.

- **It should be the CRD.**

Your main reasons for trusting the CRD to operate sewage treatment are that it is not for profit (39%); public interests are better served (22%); and there is more accountability (19%).

- **It should be green and efficient.**

You want resource recovery technology. Over six in ten (62%) think it should be a high priority for the regional district to bring in programs that reuse wastewater.

More information on the survey is available at:
www.keepwaterpublic.ca

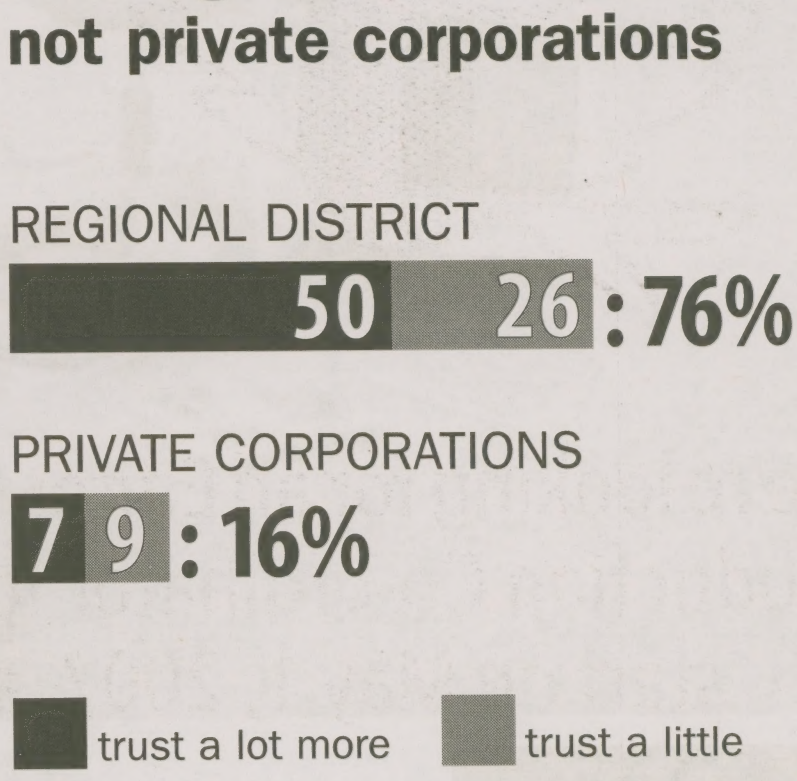
question:

Who do you trust?

The regional district has been directed by the provincial government to develop a new sewage treatment plan. Who would you trust more to operate a new sewage treatment facility, a private corporation or the regional district?

answer:

The regional district, not private corporations



A message from the members of CUPE Local 1978
providing services to residents of the Capital Regional District.

Wade and Waters left off ballots

by David Karp

UVic's student society elections got off to a bad start on Wednesday when two candidates were left off the ballot.

Director-at-large candidates Andrew Wade and Mike Waters were not printed on the 3,000 ballots when polls opened at 9 a.m. Wade is running as an independent, while Waters is running with the A.C.T. Now slate.

Waters, currently in Calgary on a co-op term, was shocked to hear the news when contacted by phone. "I'm left off the ballot?" he asked. "Wow. Wow. That blows my mind. Holy crap—that's completely unacceptable."

"It's pretty ridiculous it wasn't proofread," said Wade.

Chief electoral officer Lindsay Bourque said that Zap!, the photocopying store in the Student Union Building, made the mistake when the ballots were printed. She said that font sizes on the ballot were increased this year, which may have been why Waters and Wade were left off the ballot. Names on the ballot were listed alphabetically, with Wade and Waters falling at the end.

But the manager of Zap!, Al Bishop, said he believed Bourque sent him the wrong file for printing. "We just print the file that they give us. I guess it was missing a name," he said. Bishop noted that the ballots were delivered to the electoral office more than a week before polls opened, giving Bourque plenty of time to proofread them.

"[It's a] really, really big mix-up," said Bourque. [I'm] really, really sorry. We had the ballots sitting in the office for about two weeks in a box and I didn't go back to check."

The chairperson candidate for the A.C.T. Now slate, George Robinson, noticed the mistake when he went to vote shortly after polls opened. He notified the scrutineer at the polling station, who contacted the deputy electoral officer, who notified Bourque at 9:15 a.m. Bourque said she closed all polls five minutes later. New ballots were printed, and polls reopened shortly after 11 a.m.

Bourque said that 10 students cast their ballots before the mistake was noticed. She said she would contact those students, who gave their names to receive a ballot, so they could recast their vote if necessary.

At press time, Bourque was also trying to contact co-op students Wednesday, who received the incorrect ballots by mail. "Being an engineer, I have a lot of friends in co-op," Waters said.

Waters is no stranger to election turmoil. He was disqualified when he ran for director-at-large in 2005. When he ran for chairperson last year, he was disqualified, then reinstated, and then disqualified again.

"Keep in mind that Mike's been disqualified for the last two elections," said Robinson, the leader of his slate. "We don't have any evidence at this time as to whether or not it was a deliberate action, but it's definitely very neglectful of [Bourque] to not notice this." Robinson said his slate plans to launch an appeal if Waters is not elected.

According to Bishop, Zap! will bill the students' society for $150 for the second run of ballots.

Province prioritizes financial assistance

by Gemma Karstens-Smith

B.C. Deputy Minister of Advanced Education Moura Quayle stopped by the university on Mar. 2 for the meeting of the University Senate to speak on the role of the ministry and its current initiatives.

Accompanying Quayle were Tom Vincent and Ruth Wittenberg from the Ministry of Advanced Education. They helped her present the ministry's current top priorities and discuss how they affect the University of Victoria.

Among the priorities was student financial assistance.

"[It's] one of the most satisfying portfolios I've ever worked on," Vincent said of the ministry's work in the area.

He went on to say that student needs have been addressed in recent years as a result of increased lending, scholarships and bursaries, and better wages for part-time jobs.

Vincent also pointed to an increase in student debt, admitting that students have taken "the brunt of the strain."

During question period, a student senate member asked if the province would be taking any action toward student debt in light of the recent Student Day of Action on Feb. 7. Quayle indicated that the province's position has been a "tuition cap to inflation" and that will not be changing.

The ministry is also working on a "research and innovation framework" initiative.

Quayle said that the initiative aims at "bridging the gap between university and industry." In describing the program, she explained that exemplary institutions or those that specialize in approved areas will be awarded funding over those that have shown less experience and fewer results. Quayle provided UVic's marine biology program as an example of an exemplary program.

The ministry has also made Aboriginal post-secondary education a top priority.

Currently, 40 per cent of the Aboriginal population in post-secondary education is enrolled in adult-based education.

The ministry said that it is addressing this issue by developing special projects, in addition to sponsoring scholarships and endowments, aimed at getting Aboriginals through the barriers to post-secondary education immediately after Grade 12.

The March 2 senate meeting also saw the senate move to accept a campus planning committee report that included a new project, the First Peoples House. The First Peoples House will be located between Clearihue and Cornett, across from University Centre. It will include a ceremonial hall, some classrooms and what senate member Jim Anglin called "a lot of resources that will be quite unique." Construction on the First Peoples House is projected for completion in 2009.

The Martlet is hiring!

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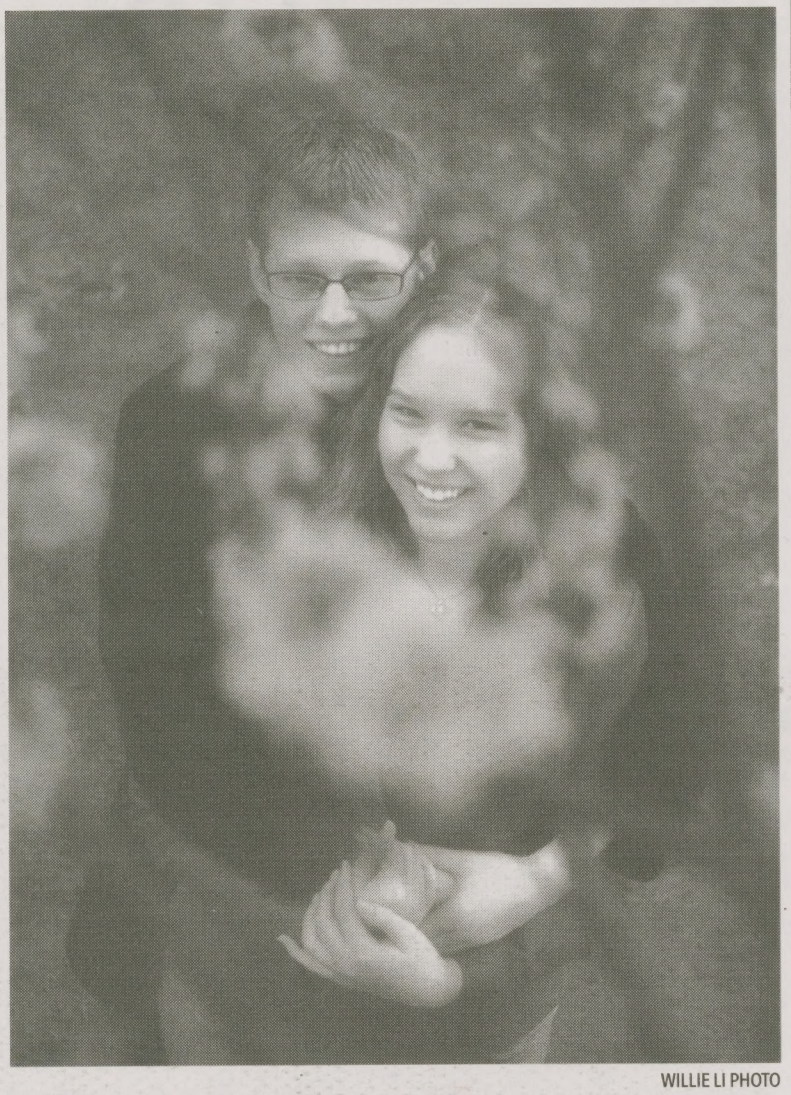
Spring is here—get it on!

by Courtney Smith



WILLIE LI PHOTO

Ross Zariski and Leah Johnson are twitterpated all year long.

Spring is that wondrous time of the year when the sun comes out, flowers bloom, rabbits get it on and, notoriously, students fall in love.

Why is it that as soon as the weather gets tolerable, brains turn to mush as students fall over each other trying to get into pants of their classmates?

According to a study reported on by the BBC, when affected by love, "Events occurring in the brain ... have similarities with mental illness." In fact, studies found that behaviour seems to mimic Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

Biologically speaking, the feelings associated with love are caused by hormones (testosterone, estrogen, dopamine, norepinephrine, serotonin, oxytocin and vasopressin). These chemicals flood the brain when triggered by pheromones. The BBC came to no conclusions connecting biological reactions to the seasons.

Robert Gifford, a UVic professor of psychology, says he is not aware of any scientific evidence, but he did say that "spring is nature's time of growth and development, which is based of course on the increasing sunlight." He went on to point out that "many animals use this time for mating so that raising their young is easier in the summer, when food is plentiful, again, thanks to the sun's energy being turned by photosynthesis into greens, which are eaten by the herbivores, who are eaten by the carnivores. People, being animals, still often follow this pattern."

Despite human high culture and progress, we are still animals, and just like all those bunnies out there, the sun kick-starts our instinct to prowl. "The time of new beginnings for all living things [is spring] ... and falling in love is a new beginning," said Gifford.

Canadian human rights journalist to visit UVic

by Diana Szpotowicz

Speaking at UVic on March 9, Sally Armstrong, an activist and witness of human abuses in Afghanistan, will discuss "Human Rights—Human Wrongs."

An Amnesty International award winner, her roles as an author, former magazine editor, and human rights activist notwithstanding, Sally Armstrong is most proud of her work as a journalist.

While growing up in Montreal, Armstrong never intended to become a journalist and instead trained to become a physical education teacher. Armstrong's friends noticed that she constantly talked about human rights, and one friend referred her to an editor. Before Armstrong knew it, she was hired alongside two professional journalists, and together they created *Canadian Living* magazine.

While on assignment for the magazine, Armstrong was first exposed to the hardships of women in Afghanistan. Inspired by the personal strengths of the Afghan women under the oppressive Taliban regime, she wrote the book *Veiled Threat: The Hidden Power of Women in Afghanistan.*

Armstrong has been present in many zones of conflict around the world, including Rwanda and Bosnia. She has been in danger several times, most memorably when she was confronted by members of the Taliban.

Armstrong considers herself a feminist and feels that it is not a bad label but an indication of a person who believes in women's equality.

On Friday night, Armstrong will introduce her audience to the harsh realities that women in Afghanistan faced under the Taliban regime. She will share the stories of several Afghanis, including a radio announcer, a psychiatrist, a pharmacist and a civil engineer. She will also talk about the new deputy prime minister of Afghanistan, Dr. Sima Samar, a woman who worked as a doctor when women were banned from working in Afghanistan and lived under constant threats from the Taliban.

Corrections

Last week's feature contained some inaccuracies: there are only four Island Sexual Health clinics in Victoria, not six; Pam Avery is the acting volunteer co-ordinator; Heather McAdam has immunized a 15- or 16-year-old girl and she suggests that students be immunized in Grade 6, not Grade 7.

Homegrown homelessness no longer a myth

by Megan Drysdale

The results of the Capital Region District homeless survey were released March 2, revealing that more than 73 per cent of homeless people living in the Capital Region District are originally from Victoria.

The press release found that it is "a common myth" that the homeless travel to Victoria from other parts of Canada and the U.S., while in reality only 11 per cent of the city's homeless are from outside B.C. Sixteen per cent are from other parts of B.C., "often as close as Duncan and Vancouver."

"We were expecting to find it, and we found it again," said researcher for the Community Council Jane Worton, about statistics on what she dubs "the homegrown homeless."

Other results from the survey revealed that 25 per cent of Victoria's homeless are Aboriginal, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit. This reported proportion is 10 times larger than the proportion of Aboriginal people living in Victoria, which, according to a 2001 census, make up less than 3 per cent of the overall population.

The survey was conducted Feb. 5 to 9, when shelters, transition houses and jails counted their numbers. Over 200 volunteers conducted surveys at over 40 social service locations.

The survey was administered by the Victoria Cool Aid Society and the Community Council of Greater Victoria. The Cool Aid Society operates a diverse range of social and health services while the Community Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to conduct and communicate community-based research.

Worton didn't find any of the survey results surprising but acknowledges that they're "difficult" nonetheless, especially the statistics about homeless youth and children. There are 116 homeless youth in the Capitol Region District, as well as 67 children. The numbers pertaining to families are inconclusive. As a result, the Community Council plans to work in conjunction with the Burnside Gorge Community Association's recently implemented Homeless Families Outreach Project, which is in contact with 432 families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

A similar study was conducted by the Cool Aid Society in 2005, but Warton calls the survey "educated guess work."

This time, homeless people in the Western communities, on Saltspring Island and the Penninsula and were counted, recording statistics that were previously unavailable.

The number of homeless people is probably far greater than the results from the survey, according to the initial report. Worton maintains that the numbers aren't a catalyst for change, but rather the information obtained is.

After the statistical analysis is completed in late March or early April, a report will be distributed to social service agencies to see if results match previous understandings that clients have of homelessness.

"This is a community that is ready to act but that needs some ideas to know what to do," said Warton. "Those who have first-hand experience with homelessness and unstable housing have a better understanding of what resources they need."

Fundraising to move mountains (and mudholes) in Uganda

by Robyn Luff

UVic student Natalie Ward is trying to raise $20,000 by April.

Ward and UVic alumni Peter Hunt have just started a non- profit organization called "Partnerships for Opportunity" that will raise money to benefit African communities. They hope that, through the organization, they will be able to show local groups and individuals how simple it can be to effect a huge amount of change in other people's lives.

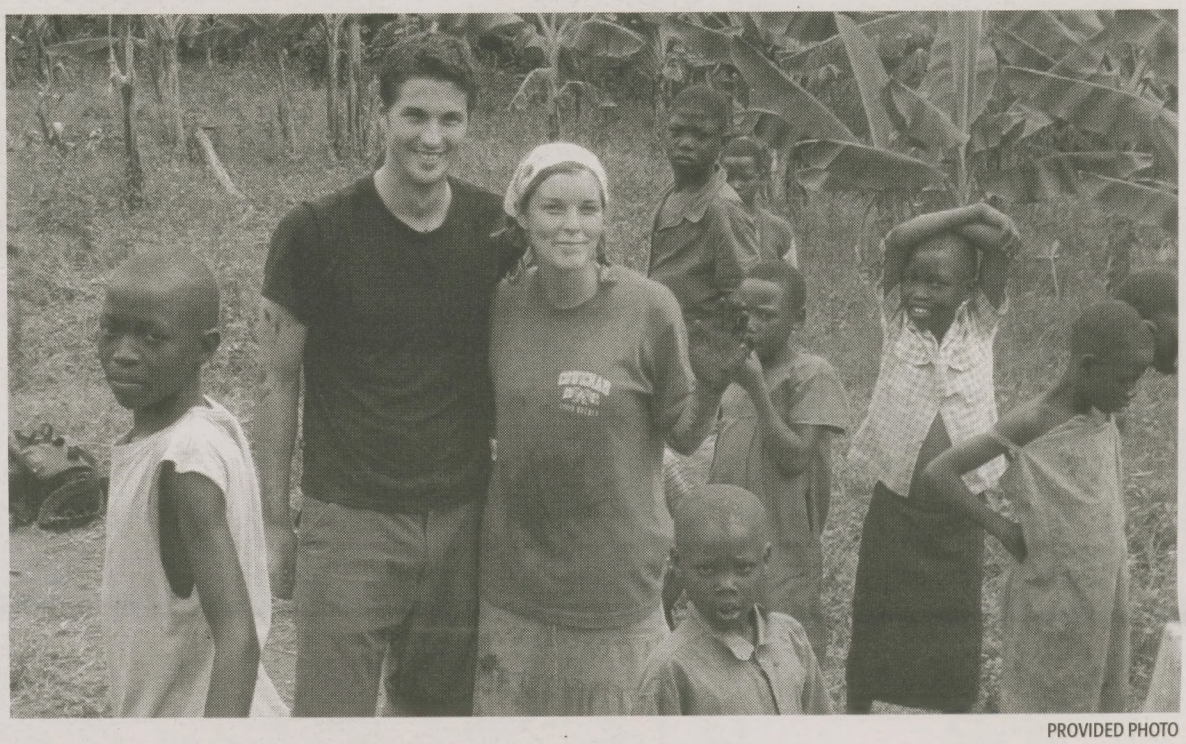
Ward, a geography undergrad, spent much of 2005 and 2006 in Uganda. She went there to work on her honours thesis, which involved in a study of HIV/AIDS.

While Ward continued work on her project at the Mengo Hospital, she was overwhelmed by the poverty she saw all around her. "You would see street children at the dump in the morning, coming out of the fog to root through the trash for food, hundreds of them."

In response, Ward took interest in a group of boys called the Mengo-Bakuli Youth Brigade. The group consisted of orphans and unwanted boys who had been living on the street. They joined together to form a band in order to make enough money to clothe and house themselves. Ward spent a lot of her time playing soccer with the boys and teaching them basic things like geography and English. To further their cause, with the help of family and friends in Canada, she was able to raise enough money to purchase band uniforms and a taxi-scooter, which provides much needed income for the group. Most of these boys have dreams of being able to return to school to complete their educations, and Ward hopes to be able to raise enough money to send them all.

Ward and Hunt continued to involve themselves with Ugandan projects. They were invited out to rural communities by acquaintances from the hospital. People were very friendly. "Everyone you meet wants you to go to their village and meet their families," said Ward. Wherever she went, it seemed that there was a possibility to help people.

On a bike ride one day, Ward and a friend came across a group of rural teachers having a staff meeting under a Mango tree. The teachers asked them to stop and talk. They spoke of a lack of infrastructure, of students who had classes outside. And, because there was not enough space, only some of the local children could be enrolled. Ward connected with a leadership class at Quamichan Middle School in Duncan and the class was able to fundraise enough money to build a new schoolhouse in the rural community. There was even enough money left over to buy new textbooks.



PROVIDED PHOTO

Peter Hunt and Natalie Ward play in the mud with friends in Uganda.

When Ward arrived back in Canada, she knew she definitely wanted to go back to work on the projects she had started. "The experience with the Quamichan class really showed me how easy it is to link groups together. The class was able to see the direct result of their fundraising, and it had a much more immediate impact."

Ward and Hunt are scheduled to return to Uganda in April. In the meantime, they are busy giving presentations to various school classes and groups on Vancouver Island and in Vancouver. "We are mainly trying to educate young people about what they can do in the world," said Wood. They already have 1,000 children at a school in Vancouver who are collecting band instruments and fundraising.

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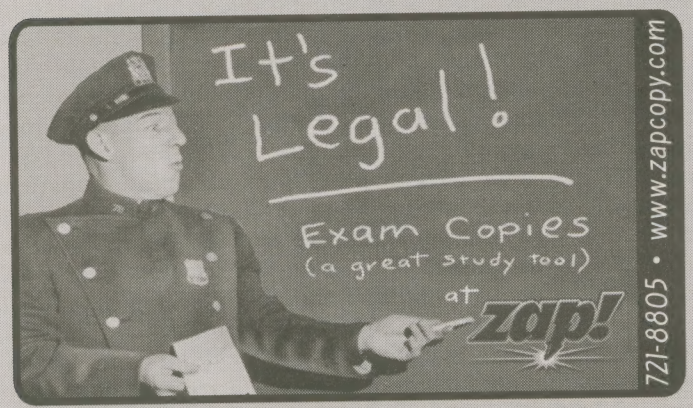

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AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Nancy Turner is devoted to exploring the environment with a little help from indigenous cultures.

Professor wins $70,000 award

by Anna Kemp

When Nancy Turner applied for the Killam Research Fellowship last fall, she thought it was "a bit of a long shot."

To her surprise, Turner was recently announced as one of 10 Canadian researchers to receive the prestigious award.

Turner, a professor in UVic's School of Environmental Studies, works in the field of ethnoecology, which she describes as "the study of the interrelationships between people and their environments."

Her research project, "First Peoples, Landscapes and Time: Loss and Renewal in Ecocultural Diversity," will look at patterns of ecological knowledge and belief systems within indigenous cultures in western B.C.

Turner, who is not First Nations, said that her work requires awareness about issues of intellectual property and cultural appropriation.

"I work very much collaboratively with indigenous people, who I call my teachers, really ... and I always acknowledge that, when I am talking about this information, it's not my knowledge, and I share it with others with permission from the people who have taught me."

While many of the elders she has worked with have concerns about intellectual property, they are also concerned that their knowledge be passed on. "They feel that passing on the knowledge is very important, especially to their own communities, so in a sense I feel like I am kind of a facilitator to help them do that," Turner said.

Turner also feels that her work has an important role to play in raising the profile of traditional knowledge systems in policy- and decision-making. "I think the value of indigenous knowledge has been underestimated and underrecognized," she said.

According to Turner, traditional knowledge systems have a lot to teach the rest of us. "With the forces of globalization and industrial development on a broad scale, we are constantly being distanced from the sources of the resources that we use so that we no longer have that connection with the food and other materials that we use in our daily lives. I think that this is a really serious problem because we don't see the impact of what we consume on other parts of the world."

Indigenous cultures have traditionally played an important role in preserving their natural local ecosystems, explained Turner. "There is a very close relationship between biodiversity and cultural diversity. Local and indigenous people around the world who have lived in one place for a long time have acted to steward or to care for their environment so as to not only maintain biodiversity but also to increase biodiversity."

"I think many Canadians have no idea just how important this kind of knowledge is. I think we have a tremendous amount to learn from indigenous cultures and indigenous people, and I hope that the work that I do helps to make people more aware of the value of this knowledge," Turner said.

The Killam Research Fellowship, administered by the Canada Council for the Arts, supports distinguished scholars engaged in research projects in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, health sciences, engineering and interdisciplinary studies within these fields.

The $70,000 annual award, which is paid to and administered by the university, will allow Turner to devote two years to full-time research in her field.

Since she graduated from UVic in 1969, Turner has studied ethnobotany, which looks at the ways people of a particular culture and region make use of indigenous plants for food, shelter, medicine, clothing, and religious ceremonies. She has worked with more than 20 First Nations communities around B.C. and has produced articles, monographs and books, including *Plants of Haida Gwaii* (2004) and *The Earth's Blanket: Traditional Teachings for Sustainable Living* (2005).

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Choosing between kids and a career

Professions in science offer power and prestige to women in the field, but at a cost that some believe is too high

by Samantha Magnus

Women, together, can make some noise. Everything from shrieks of laughter to horrified gasps resonated down the halls of the ECS building last Wednesday, Feb. 28, during a seminar workshop hosted by Women in Engineering and Computer Science (WECS) and entitled "Living Ambitiously: Degrees, Careers and Our Personal Lives: A Workshop for Women in Science."

"Even though women have been educated in science and engineering for the last 25 years, they're not getting to the top," said seminar facilitator Lil Blume, a communications consultant who teaches at the University of Toronto. "A lot of people are asking why."

The women participating in the seminar hailed from Canada, China, Iran, Romania and Mexico. Some had spouses, some had children, and some had to leave early to pick their children up. But there was something all the women had in common: dreams. Heaps of big fat goals and ambitions. Everyone voiced an interest in the same question: How to balance it all?

One woman spoke up and said she didn't want to end up like her grandmother, who gave up her career for family and was left "twiddling her thumbs" when her kids left home. She didn't want to be left without a sense of purpose and influence in life.

Blume knows this kind of story by heart. She's heard women say "I've gained great relationships with my kids and a strong family, but something in me has disappeared," and "I missed my ability to connect with people, to be impactful."

Blume asked the women to ask themselves: "What is the most satisfying thing you've done and what made it satisfying?" Another woman's boyfriend wanted her to stop working and marry him. Blume called this work-free arrangement "dangerously attractive." Then she asked "but what is a flourishing life?"

"I don't want you to be depressed 20 years from now," she said. Many women who dream of prosperous science careers only take the first few steps. "Women are graduating, getting PhDs and then stagnating," said Blume. "They're not moving on."

Blume admitted there are "internal and external reasons." The career woman who leaves her kids in day care is criticized. "The underlying attitude in our culture is that women should really stay home with their babies," she said.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2004, women represented 60 per cent of post-secondary graduates in Canada, but women represented only 25 per cent of graduates from engineering and related programs, while 65 per cent of humanities graduates were women. Blume worries that too many women don't take their educations seriously but adopt the attitude: "get your art history and become an interesting wife."

The sex ratio at UVic surprised and puzzled the workshop participants from overseas.

They agreed that in their home countries, women are better represented, that scientists and engineers are more prestigious professions, and that parents are more eager to have their daughters educated in science and math. Margarita Loyola was one of the few women in her engineering class in Mexico City (Universidad Iberoamericana), but insists they were "very highly respected." Today she "wouldn't say women are the minority," she said.

UNESCO's Global Education Digest reports that in the U.S. in 2004, women represented 34 per cent of the graduates from post-secondary science and technology programs. It might surprise most Canadians that this figure is higher for some Arab countries: Jordon (37 per cent), Lebanon (38 per cent), Oman (38 per cent), Saudi Arabia (39 per cent) and Bahrain (50 per cent). Canada was not included in this report.

According to UVic's Equity Policy for Female Faculty Members (last amended 1991), "Women represent 17 per cent of the regular faculty at UVic and at most other Canadian universities." Blume said that number still holds today.

"I don't think that women feel conflicted about ambitions but that our ambitions conflict," said Blume. "Our ambition to have family, community and love seems to conflict with our ambition for personal development."

Family is not a burden but a great joy. Many women want to have children. Mothers want to be with their children, and children want to be with their mothers. For Loyola, dropping her son off at day care was so painful that both of them were left sobbing.

"It's always the woman who sees the kid crying and starts crying as well and cries all the way at work," said Dr. Kim Venn, who taught at Macalester College, Minnesota, where women represented half the science faculty, before joining the department of Physics and Astronomy at UVic last year. "It's like a slap in the face that something is wrong."

After three months of maternity leave, Venn put her own daughter in day care. "That will be the biggest regret for the rest of my life," she said.

It's no wonder women abandon career opportunities and professional development for their kids. Dr. Nancy Sherwood, professor emeritus in UVic's biology department, said two of her master's students were unable to complete their degrees because they became pregnant.

"In the academic world, it's very hard to stay out for very long," said Sherwood. "Most [scientists] work 60 to 70 hours a week to succeed, and that doesn't work very well with children."

Maternity leave for UVic faculty is 17 weeks. "Taking several years off from research is not such an option," said Blume. Potential employers or grant applications look at a gap in publication record with a raised eyebrow.

"I became very ambitious and burned out and downsized," said Roberts about her own family-career juggling act. But in science, a "downsized" job is rare. Scientific research needs specific equipment and laboratory space. Lab space is expensive, and it's not economical to supply it to a researcher who is only part-time, Sherwood explained. Plus, as Blume said, "You can't get tenure working 20 hours a week."

"I was very lucky," said Sherwood. "I handed in my PhD thesis, and then my son was born." She stayed home for three years and then worked part-time at UVic as a post-doc with Dr. George Mackie. "I could set my hours," she said. "I continued to publish."

Gradual reintegration would help women enormously, according to Sherwood. "I think the academic world needs to make a serious plan for women in which they allow them to work part-time," she said.

Of course, mothers are not exclusively responsible for caring for their kids. "The tragedy," said Blume, "is that we think it's all our job." When women choose to stay at home, she said, "it's not a real choice if there's no one else to look after your family."

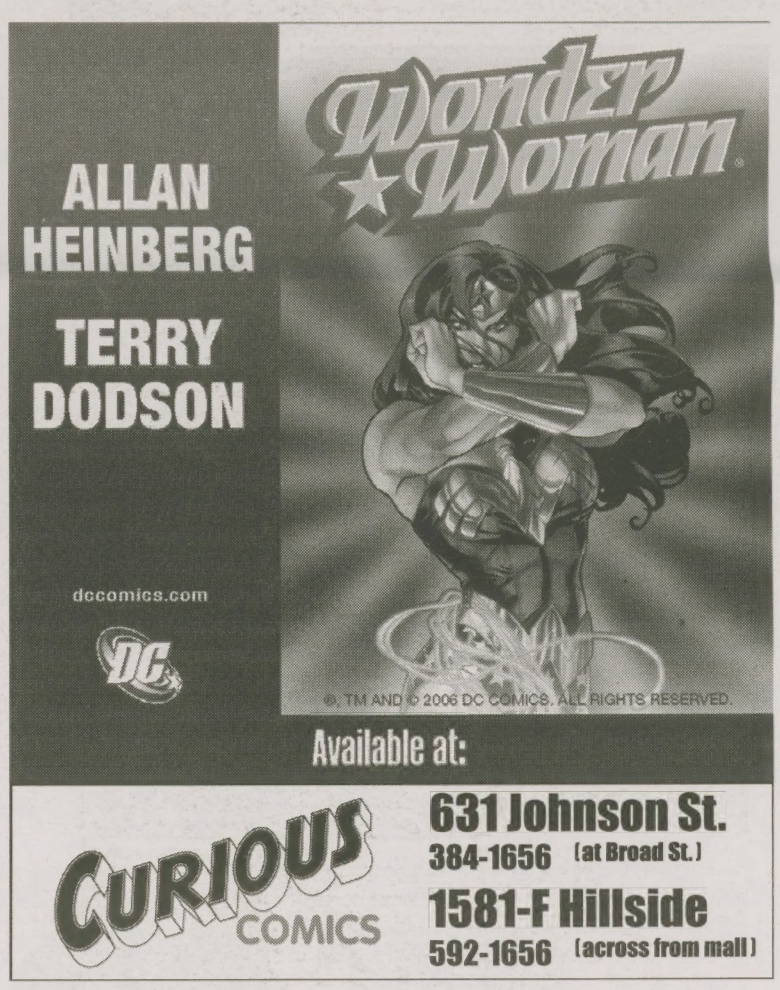
Extended family can be the supporting pillar that mothers need, but "if you're a career-oriented person, you won't be living in the same city," said Venn. From Blume's experience, women will refuse spousal support because they just can't let go of their children, even for a moment. "I don't know if it's hormones or what, but you get the feeling like you're the P.I. on this one," said Venn, "no matter how 50/50 your partner wants to be."

"It's important not to limit ourselves based on femininity," said Sarah Cruch, an employee of UVic, "and not to let anyone else limit us." But when it comes to career and motherhood, women in science have limited options. Many pick one or the other.

The goal of UVic's Equity Policy for Female Faculty Members is to "substantially increase the proportion of female faculty members at all ranks." But, as the policy states, "Unless more women complete graduate school, many departments will be unable to hire more women, in spite of employment equity policies and their good intentions."

According to Blume, women are not as free to design their own lives as some would like to think. "For a minute we fall asleep and think the revolution is over!" said Blume.

The world's worst problems will need radical creative solutions. How much creative potential is won when women are participating fully in engineering, science and computer science, professional fields where creativity is central? There's only one way to find out, and Canada still has a long way to go.



The harmful side affects of common plastics

by Nathan Lowther

It seems reasonable to believe that a substance contaminating virtually every Canadian would be thoroughly tested by our government. Unfortunately, this is not the case when it comes to phthalates, one of the most abundant industrial pollutants found in our environment.

Phthalates are a family of chemical substance commonly used as plasticizers. They are found in everything from plastic containers in the recycling to hospital equipment like IV tubes and PVC blood bags. They are in exam gloves, cosmetics like hairspray, deodorant, perfume, and nail polish, and building materials like caulking, PVC flooring and lubricants. Due to their wide spectrum of uses, more than 1 million tons are produced each year. Still, wide gaps remain in the research done to date.

The limited testing that has been done has focused on the effects of exposure to a single phthalate for a fixed period of time, rather than the real-world continuous contamination by an assortment of phthalates. As University of Victoria chemistry professor Reg Mitchell explained, "You do toxicity studies to show that it's not acutely poisonous, but you don't do much on the way of chronic studies, long-term, low-use studies."

One of the first teams to examine the results of phthalate exposure to fetal development was led by Earl Gray of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Published in 1999. Gray's results show that animals exposed to phthalates in utero have an increased rate of demasculinization, with various defects occurring to their reproductive systems, including hypospadias, a deformation of the male genitalia, and testicular atrophy.

To date, there have been no tests conducted on human fetuses. However, the frequency of hypospadias in humans doubled in the U.S. between 1970 and the early 90s. According to Mitchell, phthalate use became widespread in the 70s.

A study conducted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found phthalate contamination was highest among women of childbearing age. One possible explanation for this is the widespread use of cosmetics that contain phthalates. Unfortunately, it is not mandated by law that cosmetic companies must list whether phthalates are an ingredient in their products. In May 2002, a coalition of environmental and public health organizations contracted with a major American laboratory to test 72 name brand, off-the-shelf beauty products for the presence of phthalates. They found positive results in 52 of the 72 products tested.

As the research continues, the results seem to vindicate the concern. After one year of research, Health Canada recalled all children's toys made of soft vinyl, such as teethers or rattles, in 1998. There have been attempts in both the European Union and America to implement the voluntary removal of phthalates from toys, but this has met resistance from the concerned lobby groups. To reduce contamination due to phthalates leeching from PVC equipment, Canadian hospitals in some cases have begun to use latex tubing and bags for high-risk patients, such as children, pregnant women or patients requiring frequent blood transfusions. Mitchell also feels there will be a complete overhaul regarding the labelling of cosmetics within five years.

RONNIE BERGERSON PHOTO

Even the plastics found in most cosmetics can cause significant health damage.

The good news is that the risk to the average adult seems fairly minimal. "There is no hard evidence in the last 10 years that the amount that is out there is particularly dangerous to any normal person," said Mitchell. The risk, he continued, is to kids, pregnant women and their babies.

So what can a woman who wants to have children in the near future to do minimize her exposure? Unfortunately, not much. Buying latex or silicone products rather than vinyl or PVC is one thing. Using online sources to research phthalate-free cosmetics is another.

And fortunately, phthalates break down quickly. A woman living in a vacuum could expect to be phthalate free in "about three months" according to Mitchell. Of course, nobody lives in a vacuum, so unless something changes, it will be impossible to avoid all sources of recontamination, no matter how careful a consumer one is.

Overall, current research indicates that exposure to phthalates is not a major health concern to the typical university student. "You need to be suspicious of these things. There's nothing wrong with being suspicious, being careful, being prudent," said Mitchell. In his opinion, exams should be a bigger preoccupation than phthalates.

But if you have young children, are pregnant or plan on being so soon, paying attention to phthalates should be higher on your priority scale than they apparently are on Health Canada's.

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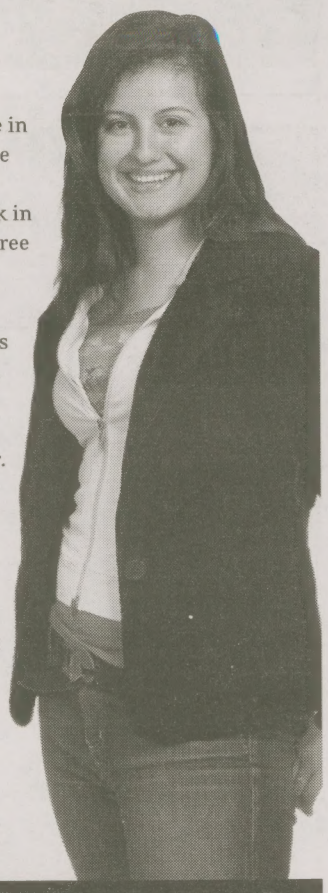

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SUB B011

The humble beginnings of the vikings

by Leif Nordholm

New archeological evidence has sparked debate over the origins of Icelandic settlement.

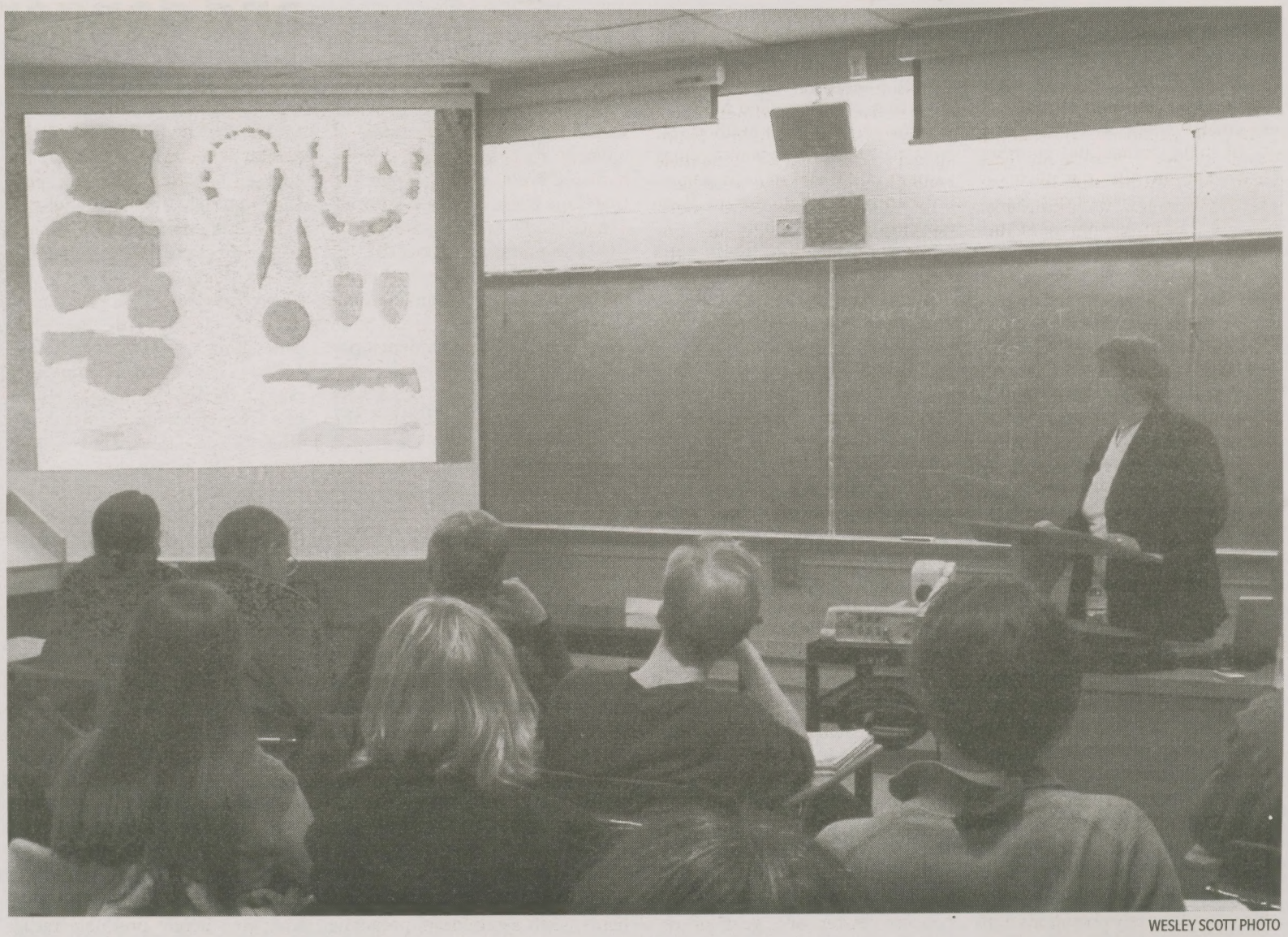
"The Origins and Adaptations of the First Settlers of Iceland" is the second lecture in Colleen Batey's UVic Beck Trust educational series. Batey, a member of the archaeology department at the University of Glasgow, has been involved in many archaeological projects, including a Viking exhibition at the Smithsonian.

Batey consulted literary sources, such as "Íslendingabók," an old Icelandic historical work, and "Landnámabók," a manuscript of Icelandic settlement, to learn about the settlers. She warned her audience, however, not to "assume that just because it says in the written source that something happened at that period, that in fact that was exactly what happened."

The first settlers arrived in Iceland in the 860s and 870s. Some sources indicate earlier settlements, but Batey remarked that "We're struggling to find the archeological evidence for those people." Other publications suggest that settlers arrived during the seventh and eighth centuries.

The first settlers in the late ninth century consisted of approximately 20,000 people, some of whom were from the British Isles. In addition, archeologists have already located some 200 pagan graves containing cultural artifacts and DNA remnants.

Scientists have used chemical decomposition to uncover further details of the settlement and the origin of many of the bodies. Layers of volcanic ash, tephra layers, help date excavation sites.



WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Colleen Batey lectured on the very first settlers to arrive in Iceland, which may have been settled as far back as the year 860.

Batey went on to explain that scientists have determined that the Vikings had a great impact on the environment in Iceland, stripping the land of turf to build houses and deforesting a large amount of land. This caused erosion and exhaustion of resources. The Norse settlers were also the first to bring grazing animals to Iceland.

The original settlers likely came primarily from southwestern Norway. People living in this poor and overpopulated area could no longer work as farmers without land. This was one crucial motivation to migrate.

Batey discussed an "island-hopping" trend in the Norse expansion. She noted important settlers, such as Aud the Deep-minded, who went from Ireland through the Hebrides to Iceland.

Other material culture gives us a glimpse of Icelandic customs. Walrus ivory from Iceland was found from the time of the arrival of the Norse. Batey's presentation included an ornate pastoral staff. Other archeological items include an iron key, a cauldron handle and gaming pieces.

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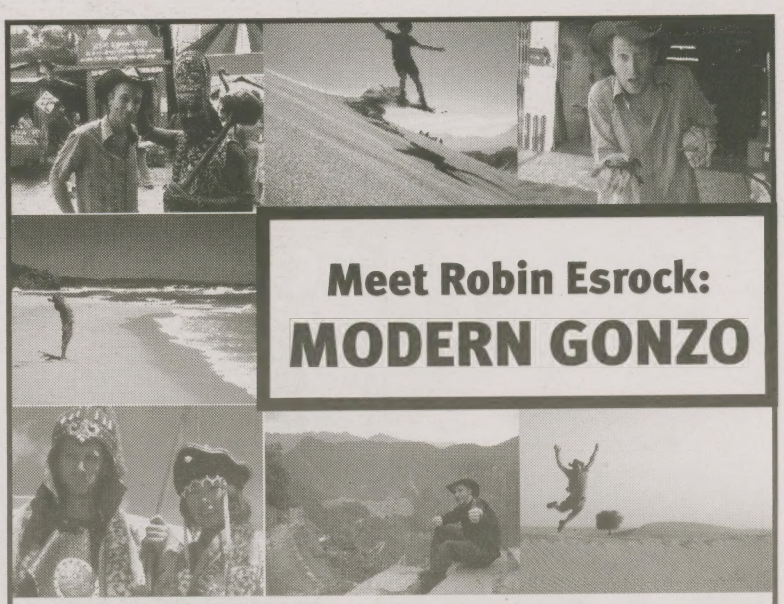

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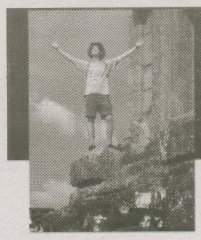

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TRAVEL CUTS
See the world your way

'We're going streaking!'

By Sheena Goodyear

Newfoundland (CUP) — Rafe Wong wants students to join the old college tradition of stripping off all their clothes and running around campus after mid-terms.

He says it will relieve exam stress and take a stand against racism.

Wong has peppered the Memorial University of Newfoundland with flyers for his run and has started a MUN Naked Run Society, though, it is not endorsed by the students union.

Wong says people are most relaxed when they are in their natural, naked state.

"We want students to be relaxed, have a good mid-term break and exams," said Wong. "It's too much pressure for young people, and we don't need that."

This is not a new idea. Students in American post-secondary institutions have been streaking their stress away for years.

Columbia University students in New York do it in October. Tufts University students in Boston do it every fall. University of Michigan students run through the whole city of Ann Arbor every April in what they call the Naked Mile.

At Brown University in Rhode Island, naked students walk around campus at the end of each semester, handing out donuts to their studying peers.

At Princeton University in New Jersey, students romp naked outdoors every year to celebrate the first snowfall in what's called the Naked Olympics.

But Wong is putting a new spin on an old tradition. He sees the run as a chance to fight racism.

"People despise skin colours, but we think everyone has a beautiful colour, so we want to show them that everyone's skin colour is the same beauty," he said.

"We just want to use this as our first action, letting people know we are civilized people; we don't like racism. As university students we want to be pioneers, we want to lead the country, so North America can say we are in the age of anti-racism."

There are about 850 international students at Memorial, but Wong believes racism is still prevalent.

"Racism is existing here in MUN, which it shouldn't be," he said.

Wong says he's seen people being harassed because of their race and that he's been harassed himself. "That's totally sad and wrong."

He also points to the fact that international students pay higher tuition fees than Canadian students: Canadians pay $85 per credit hour, while international students pay $293.33.

Wong, who is from China, says everyone should be treated the same.

He says the point of the run is not sexual in any way, and people who aren't comfortable with getting totally nude don't have to.

Wong has not set a date or location for the run yet. He wants to get more people on board.

A man was spotted running naked at Memorial's residences last week. Wong says he does not know who it was, but he is grateful for his support.

CFS sues over offensive and dangerous t-shirt

By Tristan Lapointe

MONTREAL (CUP) — The Canadian Federation of Students has charged a major clothing company with copyright infringement by incorporating its design into what it sees as an offensive and dangerous T-shirt slogan.

Last month, Bluenotes, one of Canada's largest retail chains, began selling a t-shirt reading "NO MEANS have aNOther drink" — a play on the "No Means No" slogan of a CFS campaign against dating violence and date rape.

The CFS, which has an open trademark on the image design, contacted Bluenotes with both ethical and legal complaints about the way that the clothing company was using their trademarked image. The garment was pulled from all 116 Bluenotes stores last week.

Brent Farrington, deputy chairman and vice-president of CFS and the current leader of the No Means No campaign, said that the attitude expressed by the shirt is partially responsible for perpetuating dating violence.

"Initially, when I asked why they made this shirt, I got the response that people think it's funny. [But] even in irony it's not particularly amusing," he said.

In a letter to the CFS, Bluenotes president Michael Roden apologized for the offensive shirt and asserted that his company was "committed to reflecting the values of its customers." Roden also offered his design services to the CFS.

This new partnership will create an edgier look for No Means No and will probably do much to raise the profile of the campaign, Farrington said.

"They've offered to completely redesign our logos and to sell our shirts in their stores, which will give a portion of their proceeds to women's charities. We applaud them for righting this wrong," Farrington said.

The No Means No campaign has been active since 1994, after a study by the World March of Women in 1990 concluded that one in four women will be sexually assaulted or attacked at some point.

"Date rape and sexual assault are not going away. In fact, they've become a bigger problem than ever, as we'll likely see in a new study on the issue coming out this year," Farrington said.

A spokesperson for Bluenotes was not available for comment.

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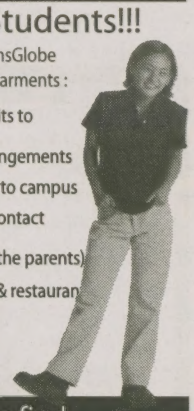

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A gap in understanding? Blame gremlins.

The question 'when is a woman not a woman, or not?' became about 'so-called feminists'

by Marti Waldman

Last week, I referred to Kimberly Nixon's case against the Vancouver Rape Relief (VRR) Centre, and there were some misinterpretations in the editing process that I think changed a few of my main ideas.

It was gremlins. I swear. I saw two of the little buggers sitting on a *Martlet* monitor picking their noses and singing "Barnacle Bill the Sailor." But no fault, no blame.

First, the VRR are not "so-called" feminists, nor did they judge Nixon "by her looks." They are a group of women volunteering a service to Vancouver. Second, they rejected Nixon on the basis of her lack of female history and genetics. A feminist opposition of this binary and patriarchal thinking exists. But VRR's defence was based solely on genetics and history, which, ironically, won their case. This case, and possibly the misunderstanding of it in the *Martlet* office, underscores a gap in understanding of transgender and by whom and how we are judged. Further difficulties are rooted in state refusal to establish national trans rights, the medical community's ongoing response to transgender as a disease, popular stereotypes and the overall rejection of our civil and legal rights.

What would happen if we addressed these definitions of transgender ourselves, the same as do other minorities? This is not only a tall order but also one seriously spicy meatball.

We are a naturally occurring population segment, although our rate of occurrence is still undergoing research and disagreement. According to Harry Benjamin Standards, the rates vary from 1 in 37,000 males and 1 in 107,000 females, to a more recent study from the Netherlands that estimates we are 1 in 11,900 males to 1 in 30,400 females. It means that we happen, just like you guys. As with the unsuccessful search for the "gay gene," there is no official understanding of why we happen other than, "Who knows? Blame the storks." But, if our normality is undeniable, what remains is official recognition of our natural personhood, official sanction of our legal and civil rights, and, of course, our legal self-description.

Below is an iceberg's tip of excellent online sources and resources on transgender identity. She-male websites do not count.

For "The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association's Standards of Care For Gender Identity Disorders, Sixth Version" go to http://www.symposion.com/ijt/soc_2001/index.htm.

"The International Bill of Gender Rights," can be found at http://my.execpc.com/~dmmunson/bill-rights.htm. You can also try to find a copy of Patrick Califia's out of print book *Sex Changes-The Politics of Transgenderism*. See chapter two: "Father Figures: The Gender Scientists."

Goodbye little stubbies, short and stout

by Anna Kemp

For about a year now, I have been a pretty regular drinker of Phoenix Gold Lager by Phillips Brewing Company. It's got that fresh lager taste, but with a little more hoppiness, a little more maltiness and not too much carbonation. And as much as I resist the notion that I make choices based on packaging, I love the stubby bottles that Phoenix Gold used to come in.

The stubby reminds me of my childhood, when all beer came in stubby bottles and my dad's brand had a yellow label with the word "beer" written on it in the same lettering as the TV show *MASH*.

I like the stubby's utilitarian feel. I like the heft of it in my hand and how little tilt it takes to drink from it. I like how the compact green box slips into my shoulder bag when I have to carry beer on my bike. And when you drink one of only two Canadian brands that use the stubby, it's pretty hard to lose your beer at a party.

A few weeks ago, I walked into the cold beer and wine store around the corner from my house to grab a six-pack of the usual. I thought they were out of Phoenix Gold until I realized, to my dismay, that the box of longnecks sitting in its place was the exact same shade of green, with the exact same logo on the side.

Were the good people at Phillips growing up and casting aside the revolutionary ideas of their youth? Had they given in to that fashionable notion that tall and slim is better than short and sturdy?

Feeling cheated and needing to know what the heck was going on, I called Matt Phillips, the 31 year-old owner and operator of Phillips Brewing Company.

Phillips moved out from Nova Scotia to B.C. with a desire to learn how to brew. After working at Spinnakers Brewpub, Whistler Brewing and Wildhorse Brewing, Phillips struck out on his own, opening Phillips Brewing Company in 2001.

Phillips loves the stubby, too. When he decided that he wanted to bottle Phoenix Gold in stubbies, he had a hard time sourcing them. "It's kind of tough for a small brewery to get the bottles they want," he said. "There's no one making them, and we're too small a brewery to get them to make them for us."

The first place he found them, a glass manufacturing plant in Portland, couldn't sell them to him because of proprietary issues. When he finally found some, he was expecting to be able to get them for at least a couple more years, but the source recently ran out.

When I asked him about the stubby bottles I remember from my childhood, Phillips explained that the stubby was Canada's national beer bottle from 1961 to somewhere between 1982 and 1986. Its uniform size allowed it to be easily washed and interchanged between breweries. After American brewing companies introduced the longneck bottle, Canadian companies started to switch over, hoping that the sexy new bottle would boost slumping beer sales. In 1992, longnecks became the industry standard, which, like the old stubbies, are interchangeable between different breweries.

Generally, companies that use bottles other than the industry standard own proprietary moulds for their bottles and don't sell them to anyone else.

Although disappointed to lose the stubby, Phillips says that sales aren't suffering. "We thought that sales would slide as a result, but they've actually jumped substantially and almost exactly correlated with the changeover," said Phillips, although he doesn't know why that could be.

Despite the obstacles that stubby bottles face, there still appears to be a firm base of stubby fans. A quick search brought up more than one website dedicated to the traditional Canadian stubby, advocating its superiority on a wide range of basis including its Canadianness, its aesthetics, its sturdiness (apparently it can be washed and reused an average of 20 times, whereas the modern longneck can only be reused an average of 16 times) and its environmental advantages (the stubby takes up less space per volume of beer, ultimately saving on the natural resources needed for transportation).

I'll probably still drink Phoenix Gold, but I am still hoping that one day I'll see one of Victoria's best beers back in the stubby bottle.

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Editorial

Dear American tourists,

Please don't come this year. We don't want you. Your kind words—the way you speak about our cute little legislative buildings or those giant black and white fish you saw when you dropped $100 for a ride in a zodiac—corrupt. You make us believe that we have to somehow please you, make us believe that the only way our faux-Victorian Victoria can survive economically is to pimp our tourist charms in travel agency offices in Tucson and Des Moines.

It's not that we don't like you. We listen to "Born in the USA" and tear up at the part about your brother at Khe Sanh just like anybody else, but your seasonal migration to the Inner Harbour quite frankly cramps our style.

It's not that we don't appreciate your green, green money. It fuels our tourist economy. It defines our way of life. That's the problem. We appreciate it too much. In fact, we're addicted. In 2005 the Victoria tourism industry brought in $1.15 billion, a figure four times what it was only 20 years ago.

But our tourism officials announced two weeks ago that Victoria could expect a summer "tourism drought." At around the same time, the cruise ship industry announced a slight dip in the number of expected arrivals for this summer (down about 20 ships). And so when your lumbering cruise-ship invasion fleets (184 cruise ships came into port last year, up from 77 in 2001) stop showing up on our shit-lined shores, it sends us into withdrawal. So you can understand why we're shivering and waiting for the shakes to kick in.

Never mind that the cruise ships continue their unregulated dumping of waste water into B.C. waters when they're not allowed to do so in the waters of Alaska or Washington state, or that the $6 starting wage instituted in 2001 was custom-designed for the service sector, or that many of Tourism Victoria's initiatives—Victoria sponsored a boat last summer in the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race in order to paint Victoria as a yachting destination—are aimed exclusively at the über-affluent American tourist. Never mind that. The money trumps it all.

Tourism is important; it means jobs and money for the city. The American gold miners got Victoria up and running 150 years ago, and now the American tourist sustains it (with the help of local and provincial government bureaucracies). Tourists need disposable income and leisure time that tourists need in order to travel, and at the moment, Americans have plenty of both. Our city, the Island and the province are taking full advantage—as well they should.

The problem is that nothing lasts forever. Right now we are so focused on getting your American attention—with Tourism Victoria's new "perfect orgasm" campaign—and in making sure you're accommodated, we sometimes miss out on the big picture. Relying so heavily on one source of one sector of the economy in an age when barriers, both practical and ideological (new passport regulations and American hegemony), are going up between our countries just doesn't make sense. It isn't sustainable.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 3 p.m. every Friday in the *Martlet* office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

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COME ON, PEOPLE, GIVE ME SOMETHING TO WORK WITH HERE
WORLD DOMINATION CONSPIRACIES
brainstorming session
1) Culling the bunnies on the UVic campus
2)
old grails

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Hey guys, you killed my cartoon

Just writing in regards to your altered version of my editorial cartoon that you ran last week ("The joy of UVSS elections," *Martlet*, March 1). Altering an artist's work and printing it without their consent is illegal under Canadian Copyright laws and a flagrant violation of artistic licence. Congrats. You guys managed to kill the joke and my respect for your publication's integrity.

I was told that the reason for the change was because "editorial cartoons are based in fact." Since there is a female candidate in the running, it would have been unfair to have the androgynous conjoined twin labelled "guy" and "other guy." So, is there also an androgynous twin in the running?

The comic is a metaphor poking fun at the similarity of political parties and you guys managed to strip it down to a gender issue. Personally, I don't know a single person the comic would have offended. Now you have avoided "offending" people and succeeded in outraging them.

Your refusal to acknowledge any fault or to print the original comic with a formal retraction is regrettable. It's sad to discover that sometimes the medium for free speech is the same one that stifles it.

-Mary Karaplis

The Martlet *did nothing illegal when we changed instances of the word "guy" to "person" in Mary Karaplis's cartoon. All content printed in our paper undergoes editing for accuracy and the appearance of discrimination. Some* Martlet *staff were worried that if readers misunderstood the cartoon they might believe we were implying that female candidates were men or manly.*

The Martlet *editorial cartoon represents the views of the paper, not just the views of artist who draws it, and as is the case with other newspapers. Thankfully, Karaplis and* Martlet *editors have come to an understanding since this letter was received, and have agreed to a new schedule that will allow editors and artists more time to discuss changes, and she will continue to contribute her art to the* Martlet.

-Editors

Voting matters to Access

The punchline of the Martlet's cartoon ("The joy of UVSS elections," *Martlet*, March 1) seemed to be that it makes no difference who we vote for in the upcoming UVSS elections. Not true!

As a blind student and the Constituency Representative for students with disabilities, I can assure you it makes all the difference in the world. The purpose of Access UVic is to lead the way to a barrier free and fully accessible university. A UVSS Board commitment to our advocacy work is essential to our success. One slate has pledged their support for our goals.

If you'd like to support the full and equal participation of students with disabilities in all aspects of campus life, please vote for A.C.T. Now.

-Kyla Berry, Access UVic

Clarifying wage statistic

At the risk of bringing on the wrath of all feminists, I'd like to briefly address the often-misunderstood statistic mentioned in Jessica Paterson's ("'Not a feminist' in women's studies," *Martlet*, March 1) opinion piece, namely that "women still make only 70 per cent of what men make."

Now, at first blush, this seems to indicate a huge wage discrepancy between the sexes, but in reality this may not be the reality because of the way the average is taken.

Right now, if you and I had equal qualifications and entered the workforce, on average, we would be paid about the same—that's a fact.

But, if you looked at a man and woman in their 50s, you'd find that the man is paid more, because of past discrimination practices. And because the average that you are taking is so top-heavy with baby boomer males who did benefit from discrimination—even though you and I are paid equally now—if we ignore age, women still appear to make less because of the sheer number of baby boomers.

In fact, even if all women were paid more than men, the average woman still might appear to be paid less: Suppose that you have 100 men and 100 women, and two positions paying $10 and $20 respectively for men, and $15, and $30 for women—the women earn 50 per cent more in each position. But if 90 of the men are in the $20 position, but only 10 of the women are in the $30 position, then the average wage for men is $19 and the average wage for women is $16.50!

Equality has come a lot farther between men and women than you think. Don't let misleading statistics tell you otherwise.

-Aaron Barlow, UVic Student

Feminism for everybody

Jessica Paterson ("'Not a feminist' in women's studies," *Martlet*, March 1), it is positively rad that you are taking your first women's studies course in your final semester of university and that you are finding the course so enriching.

But I was shocked to read that while you condemn sexist and gendered injustice (as was demonstrated by your criticism of gendered pay inequity and division of labour, and of the problematic sexualization of women in media representations), you are nonetheless reluctant to identify yourself as a feminist.

I am perpetually perplexed by women's resistance to and misinterpretation of the word "feminist." Identifying with feminism does not preclude having a baby, being a stay-at-home parent, reading *Cosmo* or "enjoying your femininity"—just ask my feminist mother.

One of the many projects of feminism has been to secure the right of women and other marginalized groups to self-determination. The point is that your right and privilege to consciously choose the gender identity and lifestyle you desire—whatever that might look like—is beginning to be recognized, and for that you have feminism to thank.

-Lauren "Unabashedly a Feminist in Women's Studies" Warbeck

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Cover image by Willie Li

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Ray guns: the future for freedom

by Mike Vasilev

In the war against the terrorism of free speech, you need more than censorship. You need an arsenal.

But you need a different kind of arsenal. The enemy in our midst—the hippies, the protestors, the dissenting and peace-fiending scum—are, after all, a different kind of enemy, one that is distinctly unarmed. You need weapons that can terrify and terrorize but that do not kill, or maim ... or leave anything messy for the press. You need an arsenal of "less-lethal weaponry."

And what the market wants, the market gets. In the last 15 years, the industry and output of "less-lethal" weapons has developed rapidly.

Behold the latest: the heat-ray gun—the Active Denial System. It's being made and sold under the commercial name the "Silent Guardian." It sells for $10 million, and "cease and desist and shut your mouth" is written all over it.

The heat-ray gun has a 360-degree turret and a focused and invisible high-energy ray beam that fires at a range of over 500 metres—10 times further than any other less-lethal weapon. The ray beam travels at the speed of light and penetrates just deep enough to reach nerve endings and to inflict searing pain, but not deep enough to cause visible burns.

And once the beam passes by or is turned off, the burning stops. The pain lasts only as long as you want it to. It's adjustable, tuneable—beautiful!

After 12 years of testing, no serious long-term effects have been recorded. If used "as directed" and with exposure limited to just two-second bursts, it leaves no permanent damage. No evidence. No lawsuits. No public outrage.

Less-lethal weaponry began developing in the 1960s during the Civil Rights movement—which was, if you recall, one of the greatest fights in human history against the ills of free speech. It began with weapons like tear gas, water canons, rubber bullets and later stun guns and pepper spray.

These weapons were good—a firm middle ground between doing nothing and outright massacre—but were far from good enough. They were limited in their range and in their accuracy. They were clumsy and often were too lethal. Too often the enemy wound up looking like the victim.

But no more. With the power of imagination, science fiction and a massive development budget, the days of tolerating protest and free speech will soon be over.

Following ray guns, the most exciting development is probably laser weapons. These weapons are not for burning or wounding but (temporarily) blinding or "dazzling." If the enemy sees no evil, they speak no evil. Cut the enemy off at the source of their misguided power—their vision.

There are acoustic weapons also. Most notable is the "Long-range Acoustic Device" (LRAD). This is basically an unbearably loud loudspeaker. One hundred and thirty decibels is the average threshold of pain. LRAD can reach 155 db. It can be used to give warnings and messages, but it can also make a piercing and excruciatingly painful wail. If the bastards won't listen, deafen them.

Also impressive are new weapons like the Vortex Ring Gun or the Pulsed Energy Projectile. What these do or how they do it, I am not sure. But that they will be the salvation of our modern civilisation, I have no doubt.

As exciting and arousing as all this sounds, there is also a dark and potentially very dangerous side to these weapons—especially if they fell into the wrong hands, and they easily could. They could easily wind up being used for peacekeeping and not, as the good Lord no doubt intended, for the purpose of crushing the free will of His free-speaking children.

Less-lethal weapons could also be abused and misused. They may one day be used when nobody is watching, when restraint is just not necessary, when there is absolutely nothing wrong with live ammunition or wild brutality.

Oh, the double-edged sword of technology. Oh, the horror of war. Oh, those goddamned hippies.

Government a scapegoat for finacial woes

by Dan Palmer

With the recent UVSS Mickey Mouse election campaigns on campus, students are offered the chance to reflect upon those things that really matter to them. Candidates are touting their passions in everything from the promotion of student art to reducing UVic's eco-footprint.

Many potential directors-at-large (and they really seem to be coming out of the woodwork) have included the ever-present tuition "crisis" in their condensed lists of at-the-heart issues to tackle in the coming year. Forgetting the ethical debate surrounding the UVSS's use of student funds to promote protests, can I be the first to say—and I genuinely mean this—fuck off about tuition fees!

Everyone wants more money. I would be a fool to oppose reduced tuition fees, government grants and increased funding for post-secondary institutions. Yet the Student Day of Action was, as it has been every other year, an excuse to exercise one's vocal chords, and perhaps chat up an idealistic first-year brunette from Helmcken (and really impress her with your self-made sign and tortured fist-shaking toward the Birdcage).

People who still gather in droves outside of the legislature, for almost any cause, are the upper-middle-class equivalent of the drifter I ignore every evening in my left-turn lane with the "11 cents?" cardboard poster. Yeah, sure, he's travelling this great continent of ours, saving money by sleeping on the street and leeching off charitable sympathizers. And some day, when he settles down and becomes an honest taxpayer, I'm sure he'll have no problem slipping a $20 out his car window for a poor soul like himself. I'm less sympathetic.

But here is the reality of our fiscal lives, one that leaves us constantly kicking against other socio-economic cleavages: in grade school, we listen to idealists like school trustee John Young decry the government for creating a two-tiered education system by not funding extra-curricular programs.

University demonizes politics to the point where we believe the premier intends to wrap our intestines around barbed wire and eat our young. Again, a lack of funding is blamed for our woes.

Our careers introduce us to the reality of exorbitant taxes, and our eyes bead toward the lawmakers for overburdening us. Old age brings about a sense of entitlement, and our local MLA is inundated with petitions calling for increased health-care services and, ironically, better tax breaks.

I trust you're beginning to see the pattern. The argument for the necessity of heavily subsidized (or free) post-secondary education seems, dare I say, lazy.

The majority of student-loaners I have encountered, myself included, have used more than a few shillings of government money to escape the blasé machine of study, for an unnecessary flat-screen TV, or to buy a few more pairs of shoes, or, in my case, to bankroll a crippling addiction to takeout.

After all, it is ultimately our money to pay back. And while I do not doubt that some of my fellow students budget down to their disposable razors, my observed experience with presenting copious loans to twenty somethings has been less than promising.

Current tuition rates are hardly forcing the majority to dumpster dive. So I ask my fellow students to allow the reality of tuition fees to curdle, and to start pushing for more effective uses of our UVSS fees rather than allowing the UVSS to pass the buck to the provincial and federal governments.

Rarely a false report of rape

by Meredith Chapple
Anti-Violence Project Volunteer

On May 8, 2006, the women's rights movement and AIDS activism in South Africa took a serious blow when Jacob Zuma walked free from rape charges.

Zuma, the deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC), was accused of raping the HIV-positive daughter of his close friend. The facts of the sexual encounter between Zuma and the complainant cannot be confirmed. But his acquittal weakened efforts to confront the high rate of sexual assault in Africa and upset HIV educators because the ANC deputy president's authority was easily accepted over the woman's report, and he was acquitted on the account that the sex was consensual.

Zuma defended that it was consensual by saying, "she [the rape complainant] crossed her legs and wouldn't even mind if the skirt was raised very much." This somehow indicated to Zuma that the woman was aroused and therefore excused his actions.

He claimed, "I was taught that leaving a woman in that state [sexually aroused] was the worst thing a [Zulu] man can do. She could even have you arrested and charged with rape." The complainant, however, did not charge Zuma for rape because she was left sexually unsatisfied but because for her the sex was not consensual.

No one except the complainant is in the position to determine whether she consented or not, but the point of blame aside, it was the actions of the Zuma supporters that made this case such a hit for women's rights.

The complainant faced huge backlash questioning her reliability. Supporters of Zuma swarmed outside the courthouse wearing t-shirts proclaiming "100% Jacob Zuma innocent," and some even threw stones at one woman whom the crowed believed to be the complainant.

The crowed attacked and blamed the complainant, claiming she was lying to taint Zuma's reputation.

This response affects not only the complainant but also other survivors of sexual assault who fear reporting the crimes to the police. The Zuma supporters' actions sustain the idea that false sexual assault reports are abundant.

The idea of false reporting—that a complainant can easily point their finger, cry rape and charge somebody—is apparent in Canada as well and has affected how sexual assault reports are received. But those who assume that sexual assault suspects can be convicted from simple verbal accusations should learn the process one undergoes in the emergency room after reporting rape or assault.

The "rape kit" collects evidence of clothing fibres, hairs, saliva and semen. For male and female survivors, blood is taken, along with cultures of the cervix or anus. Photographs are taken of external injuries, the mouth is swabbed and hair samples are taken.

On top of the physical examination, survivors are asked to give extensive details of their account to the police, reliving the trauma over again. False reporting is rare, but any person who lies about sexual assault should be reminded of what it means for a true survivor coming forward.

There is help available for survivors of sexual assault. The Anti-Violence Project has a drop-in centre and resource library on campus that provides support with total confidentiality to all those affected by sexual assault. The AVP is also a resource centre.

THE BIG MOVE

The goods on off-campus renting

NATURAL AREAS ATLAS MAP CREATED ON 03/05/07

by Liz Sperano
photos by Willie Li

You're beginning to feel the death grip of school and you dream of warm summer afternoons and white sandy beaches. April will be filled with exams, papers and all things resulting from months of careful procrastination. Unfortunately, many students will be consuming time searching for off-campus housing.

You can try seeking the help of a real estate agent, but good luck. I've found it's not worth your precious time. Ask them about the areas around campus and they refer you to property managers. Ask property managers about rentals and they'll be even less helpful than real estate agents. Time means money, and most students don't have enough dough to catch the attention of housing professionals. Turns out, the best way to learn about quality student housing is to keep reading.

WHERE TO START?

The first obstacle to finding a place to live is finding a place to start looking. You could bust out your daily or weekly newspapers, circling the possibilities in big thick red sharpie like they do in the movies, but there are far more efficient and student-friendly ways to look for housing—the UVic Housing website, for instance.

"If you're looking to post a listing or search for housing, the UVic website is one of the top sites," says Kenan Murseli, who runs both the off-campus and family housing websites at UVic. The site allows you to filter your searches by number of rooms, type of housing (such as an apartment, house or basement suite) and range in monthly price. Other top sites are victoria.renting.canada.com and homes4students.com, which have similar searching features.

The UVic site tends to be busiest in January and the end of August. During those months, a landlord might post and within an hour call UVic housing back to say the place has been taken. This may come as a shock for newcomers to the housing scene in Victoria, but those who have experienced the competitive high seasons will agree that off-campus housing goes fast.

"It's not uncommon for students to find a place in April and pay through the summer to secure housing in September," says Murseli, a recent graduate of UVic and fellow house-hunter.

He says students have an easier time with UVic's site because landlords who post there are expecting student renters, and those landlords know what a student wants.

THE ESSENTIALS

Transportation might be the key factor in your search. Keep in mind bus routes, and the time it will take to commute to classes from your new home.

"The landlords emphasize the bus routes, and the proximity to campuses, both UVic and Camosun, in their listings," points out Murseli.

You should also check out whether utilities are included in the monthly rent, the location of grocery stores, the damage deposit amount and any other stipulations the landlords might have.

Just because you're moving away from the convenient laundry services of residence doesn't give you a license to stink. Ensure you have a convenient location to wash and dry your clothes. If you're not lucky enough to have your own washing facilities, how far do you have to walk with your laundry, and how awkward is that going to be in winter downpours? The same thing applies for groceries.

Look for signs of disrepair, such as a leaky sink, low water pressure, mould or loose screens where rodents or insects could get through. Are the garbage and recycling bins emptied regularly? Is there a deadbolt lock? Will the locks be changed when the current tenant leaves?

Another often-forgotten factor is tenant insurance. In the event of a break-in, your landlord is not responsible for your stuff. For more information on your rights as tenants, check out the Residential Tenancy Act at www.rto.gov.bc.ca.

MAKING THE DEAL

Once you've come up with a list of desirable houses, apartments or basement suites, you will want to make contact with the landlord and set up an appointment to see the place. Expect to run into other students at the viewing and don't be surprised if the current tenants are around. Use this to your advantage; ask them questions about the house, the neighbourhood and, most importantly, the landlord. This is also a good time to find out about any recent repairs.

Landlords often ask you to fill out application forms during a viewing. If you're truly interested in the place, fill out the application form as soon as possible.

"People are advertising online now, and things go fast," says Jane Noel, administrative assistant for the property management department of Pemberton Homes. The longer it takes the landlord to get an application, the more students view the house, she says. "Then boom. It gets rented."

Bringing photocopies of your documents to viewings can help give you an advantage, she says. "Landlords may ask for proof of income, previous landlord references, or they could ask for a parent to co-sign if [students] don't have any previous rental experience."

If you do choose to rent a house, avoid leasing for more than the school year, says Noel.

"You don't know what you'll be doing the following year," she says. "Situations change, and the last thing you want to do is break a lease."

THE BUDGET

There is a surprising list of things you should consider when searching for housing. Now, consider your already too-tight budget. The problem with moving out of dorms is not leaving the room that's the size of a telephone booth, it's the nasty, unexpected bills and surprising fees that pop up at the most inconvenient times. Moving off-campus may be your first experience with issues such as disappearing toilet paper. Turns out, if you don't buy it, you run out and end up using old exams. So stock up on toilet paper as well as soap, cleaning supplies, utensils, light bulbs and furniture.

Then there are the predictable expenses like rent, food and the assortment of monthly utilities. For rent, the general rule is the more people you live with, the lower the divided rent. Expect to pay anywhere from $300 to just over $500 on rent, depending on the location and the type of place you choose. If you live by yourself or with a roommate it's possible your utilities, cable and Internet will be lumped in with your monthly rent. If you live in a house, expect to tag on those monthly utilities to your rent. In that case, don't forget about installation, activation and maintenance fees. For full cable and Internet, it's approximately $50 a month, on top of which there will be your monthly phone bills. There's no doubt about it—your bank account will get a workout in the first few months.

THE ROOMMATE SEARCH

You think you've come up with a plan to live in a house with several friends. You've found people on your residence floor or in your classes that you've been able to get along with really well. But do you really know if they'll make good roommates?

Finding a roommate may seem like a simple task: pick a friend and off you go. But before you make a decision, think about the potential candidates. Consider the amount of time you spend with those people and almost triple it. When you're living in a shared environment like a house or an apartment, you're sharing more than space—try dishes, bathrooms and TVs. Make sure you and your decided roommates sit down before living together and come up with a few general rules. If you can find common ground before moving in, you'll have an easier time when problems show up down the road. Expect to change roommates over the course of your schooling.

Of the benefits to living with more than one person, having multiple people to spend time with is a big one. On the other hand, having only one roommate definitely keeps cleaning to a minimum. If you're not sure you want to live on your own, just remember that if you do, no one will fight you for the shower or the remote control.

Neighbourhood Profiles: City vs. Student

What the Internet has to say about the city, and what current students living off-campus have to say about their hoods.

Fairfield

"Located to the southeast of [d]owntown and is bounded by diverse natural features and historical buildings. To the west is Beacon Hill Park, and [to] the south are the waterfront parks. The northwest corner [is] adjacent to downtown [and] holds compact apartment buildings. The center of the neighbourhood is Cook St. Village, a vital commercial area." — victoria.ca

Hillside-Quadra

"Located in the north part of city, bound by three high volume traffic routes, the neighbourhood is able to maintain a pleasantly mature feeling with tree-lined streets, grassy boulevards and a variety of housing styles and sizes. The commercial centre at Hillside Ave and Quadra St provides a mix of retail, services and small office facilities." — victoria.ca

"There are quick buses to different areas around town, so the proximity to everything is great. There's Hillside Mall right across the street, junk food places, drug stores and it's right on the bus route. At our place you can smell the McDonalds cooking from across the street. Whether that's a pro or con is up to you." — Greg Furgala, fourth-year UVic student

James Bay

"A vibrant and diverse neighbourhood, located immediately south of downtown. It's surrounded by water on three sides, with Beacon Hill Park as a border on the east. The neighbourhood has a thriving population with a large proportion of seniors." — victoria.ca

"It's definitely close to everything — downtown, clothing stores, bars, theatres — and I can stumble home from the bar no problem! It's really safe and definitely has a lot of older people. You have to be quieter though—like you can't flush your toilet or brush your teeth after 11 p.m. because it wakes them up." — Deanna Mcleod, third-year UVic student

"You pretty much have the whole city on hand.... I go to shows at Logan's and Lucky, and it's only a 10-15 minute walk. It's kind of expensive for student housing, but you save money on cab fare. Cook Street Village has cool Ethiopian, Thai and sushi places to eat, and I always run into friends at Café Fantastico. It seems like the area might be getting more expensive; the pricing and accessibility is definitely more for an older crowd." — Crystal Oberg, UVic fourth-year student, on both Fernwood and Fairfield

Cadboro Bay

"Cadboro Bay is a unique seaside community bounded by the Univerity of Victoria and the ocean. Anchored by the Cadboro Bay Village core, it includes beautiful beaches, natural ponds teeming with wildlife and extensive walking trails. Almost everything you need is close at hand." — cadborobaytoday.com

"Caddy Bay—or 'down the hill'—has everything you need: Smuggler's pub, Starbucks, liquor store, Peppers, People's Drug and the beach. It doesn't get much better for all-in-one living, and it's even close to campus. It definitely has its own cliques. People who live and work in Caddy Bay have their own group of friends and even a Caddy Bay Facebook group!" — Kelly Wilkinson, fourth-year UVic student

Oak Bay/Rockland

"Home to a rich array of heritage houses, a castle, and Government house, the neighbourhood has a grand elegant character. Located east of downtown, it is a largely residential neighbourhood with mansions converted to suites, and includes a mix of apartments, townhouses, and single-family homes." — victoria.ca

"The houses are older but are rustic, Victorian style and expensive. There aren't many suites for students, but there are lots of apartments. There are quaint, non-chain places to eat, and there are very cute pubs. Hometown type of cutesy pubs, not necessarily student oriented, but the kind of pubs you'd become a regular at."— Michelle Sharun, third-year UVic student

Fernwood

"Located in the heart of Victoria, the area is attractive to young [or] middle-aged adults, singles, and families. It's primarily a residential neighbourhood with single-detached homes and apartments." — victoria.ca

Mt. Tolmie/Jubilee

"Located in the northeast corner of Victoria, bound by Saanich and Oak Bay. There is a range of housing throughout, away from busier streets, such as single-detached homes to create a pleasant residential atmosphere. Many streets serve as important transportation routes, providing easy access to downtown." — victoria.ca

"The best part is how close everything is. If I run out of beer during a hockey game, I can get more in a commercial break. Maude's has a sick patio for when it's hot out. McDonald's is the best, though; the guy in the drive-through knows us all by name and what we order. He's the night guy and we're always there between one and three a.m. There are a lot of students in the area. We are more of a Shelbourne crew; we're a nice gang like the Jets in West Side Story ... but with more singing." — Connor Ferguson, second-year UVic student

Gordon Head

"Located northwest of UVic, the neighbourhood is bound by McKenzie Ave to the south, Finnerty Rd to the east, Braefoot and Mt. Doug to the west and the ocean to the north. The neighbourhood consists of a range of housing from single-detached homes to suites and apartments. The University Heights Shopping Centre provides residents with retail, grocery and restaurant facilities." — victoria.ca

"It's very neighbourhoody, like the place your parents live and where you grew up, but not quite the ultimate suburbia.... For people who are all about working out, it's close to campus and Ian Stewart. And if you're a bar star, you should live in Gordon Head. The 27/28 bus goes right downtown. It's the most fantastic bus ever!" — Erica Gates, third-year UVic student

PROVIDED PHOTO

Taking Back Sunday ditches the harmonies for a louder sound.

Day of rest is *Louder Now*

by Brandon DeLyzer

With the success of *Louder Now*, Taking Back Sunday's third album and major label debut, the band is finally ready to do a proper Canadian tour, making a stop in Vancouver on March 18 at the PNE Forum. But it wasn't long ago when TBS was on the verge of imploding.

Back in 2003, two members of Taking Back Sunday left the band, leaving the band's future up in the air. Not wanting to let the success of their debut album, *Tell All Your Friends,* go to waste, they hired guitarist Fred Mascherino and bassist Matt Rubano.

"I remember not knowing anything about the band before I joined," said Rubano over the phone. "I learnt the songs the night before our first jam."

After just a few practices, the band began to play a major spot on the Warped Tour and reschedule some missed TV gigs.

"The magnitude of what I was getting into didn't really hit me until I was backstage at [the Warped Tour]," said Rubano. "I saw thousands of kids outside waiting for us to play, and I thought 'Oh no, what if they hate me?'"

Rubano got over his case of stage fright, but there were other challenges. Although the band was signed with the independent Victory Records, they had to pay for *Tell All Your Friends* and their sophomore album, *Where You Want To Be,* from their own pocket. "I remember thinking that bands that are signed to labels aren't supposed to pay for their own album," said Rubano, after declaring himself the master of sarcasm.

"Everyone thinks that independent labels are the good guys and major labels are the bad guys, but I've had way better experiences with the people at Warner."

Signing to Warner Music finally gave TBS the support they always needed. Now they can tour like they want and make the albums they want.

Louder Now is meant to capture the fast-paced energy of the band's live performance. "Kids have always told us that our albums are great, but our live show is better," said Rubano.

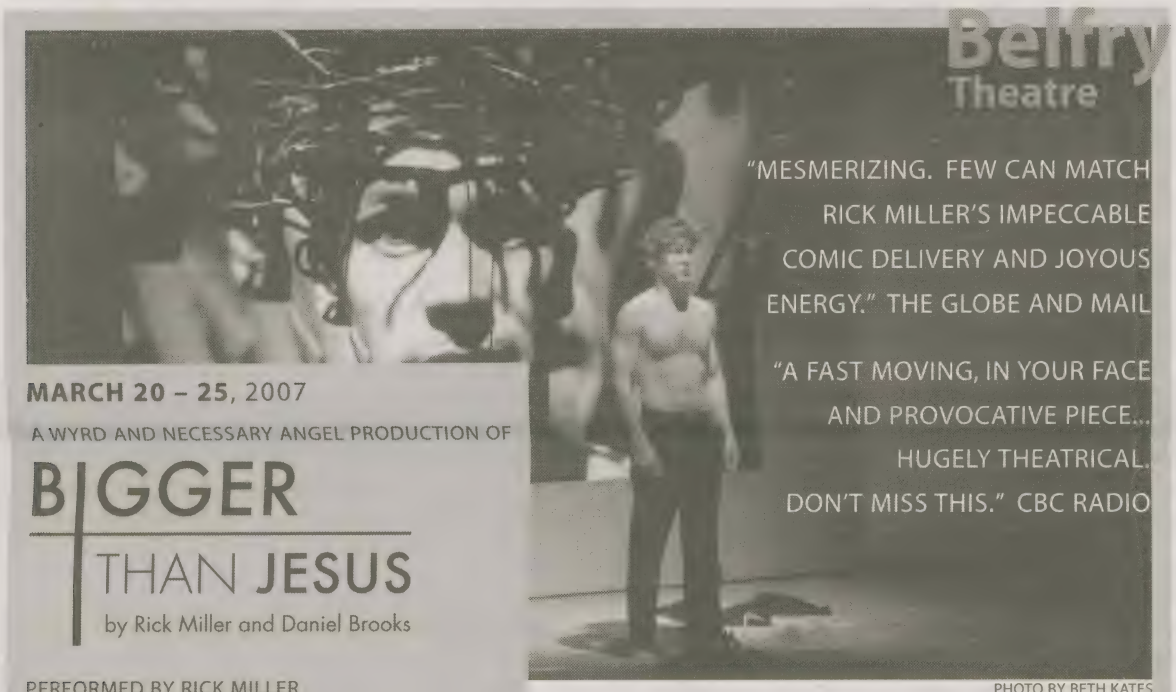
Louder Now abandons the multiple vocal harmonies that TBS was best known for in their previous albums. Taking a more classic one-singer approach, the band wanted to focus on a full sound from their instruments rather than vocals. "Too many people were catching on to what we were doing [with our vocals]," said Rubano. "So we're trying to do something new again. We don't want to make the same record twice anyway."

TBS promises they'll be taking some older songs out of the attic to mix with their new material during this tour, which starts in their home of Long Island, N.Y.

"I'm really excited to come to Canada again," said Rubano. "I love Vancouver. I'm sick of hearing that squealing sound from the buses here, but I guess you guys have solved that over there with your electric buses."

Rubano was disappointed when he heard that our buses aren't electric and that they also squeal, but he's still coming.

"In New York you have to walk around with a self-defence attitude," said Rubano, "but I always seem to get along with Canadians."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REVIEW | LOCAL ART

'Unpack and reheat' may not be enough insight

But this installation rewards patience and curiosity in those who enjoy high-concept art

by Deena Kinarthy

At first glance, *Unpacked and Reheated*, a new installation art exhibit at Open Space Gallery on Fort Street, looks like a mistake.

Dozens of ordinary cardboard boxes are stacked in the middle of the gallery room upstairs. The space surrounding it seems somewhat empty. Upon closer inspection, however, I realize the boxes are exactly what I am supposed to be looking at. And as I enter the labyrinth of interactive art, more vivid images appear in unassuming places.

The next hour is a continual discovery. During the opening this past Friday night, the work of two very talented artists, Steven Rayner and Brendan Fernandes, inspired me to pay close attention to every detail, every nuance, and every deeper meaning hidden below the surface. My curiosity was sparked and perceptions were challenged.

Rayner's pieces are simultaneously lighthearted and startling. He mixes bionic animal shells with artificial objects and technology. With tongue-in-cheek humour and a sense of playfulness, a cougar rests high above people's heads on an iPod-shaped tree branch on an artificial tree.

A nearby coyote exhibit shows the animal peacefully resting on a white block. The artist here has a good sense for space and size; the coyote is positioned on an angle and diagonally balanced. The scrounging animal seems to be the piece that sparks the most conversation among curious patrons. One older gentleman turned to me and inquired how I pronounce the word "coyote."

And it is like this with all the works. Humans and animals, objects and people from mixed cultures and backgrounds co-exist in time and space.

Rayner makes insightful connections between our man-made, artificial world and the breathing natural world. From a chirping-bird wall painted in artificial neon-green leaf patterns, to a waterfall of radios, the art challenges the boundaries between human progress and nature.

Brendan Fernandes' work is like entering another world—a captive world that is made of uniform cardboard boxes and molded deer statues. The images here are a little more sad and disturbing. Deathly white, fragile deer statues hide in various spots amongst the cardboard boxes.

On the ground, Fernandes creates a trashed, man-made look with shredded newspaper bits strewn about and bubble wrap with strips of masking tape lining the work. Dense, narrow walkways enclose viewers. We are uneasily caged in, wary of the precarious environment around us.

Fernandes rightfully chooses dimmer lighting here compared to Rayner's exhibits, adding to the uneasy mood, and creating contrasts in shadows and light, and corners for the statues to hide in. Such contrasts frame the entire gallery—dead and alive, caged and free, artificial and natural. The work is imaginative.

I had the privilege to meet and speak with the artists, to gain further insight into their work. Perhaps a written blurb about the work, in a pamphlet or program, would help other viewers to understand the artists' visions, and enrich the experience of the artworks.

All in all, *Unpacked and Reheated* is not for everyone. It may fall under the category of "high concept" and its appreciation takes patience and genuine curiosity, but if discovering new art is your cup of tea, it will prove to be a thought-provoking exhibit.

Unpacked and Reheated is a free exhibit, and runs until April 7.

COLUMN | POST EVERYTHING

Everyone's a critic and most people have iTunes

"Post-Everything" aims to be an insightful, somewhat self-indulgent commentary on all things music and pop culture related, straight from the overly analytical and opinionated brain of one Kevin Ehman.

by Kevin Ehman

This column is meaningless. In a world where pretentious ramblings on everything music related are instantly available at your fingertips, the last thing you need is another heart-on-sleeve opinion. But you will read it. And you will love me, or hate me, or both. This is because no matter how trite, transparent, and widespread pop culture commentary has become, we can't seem to turn away.

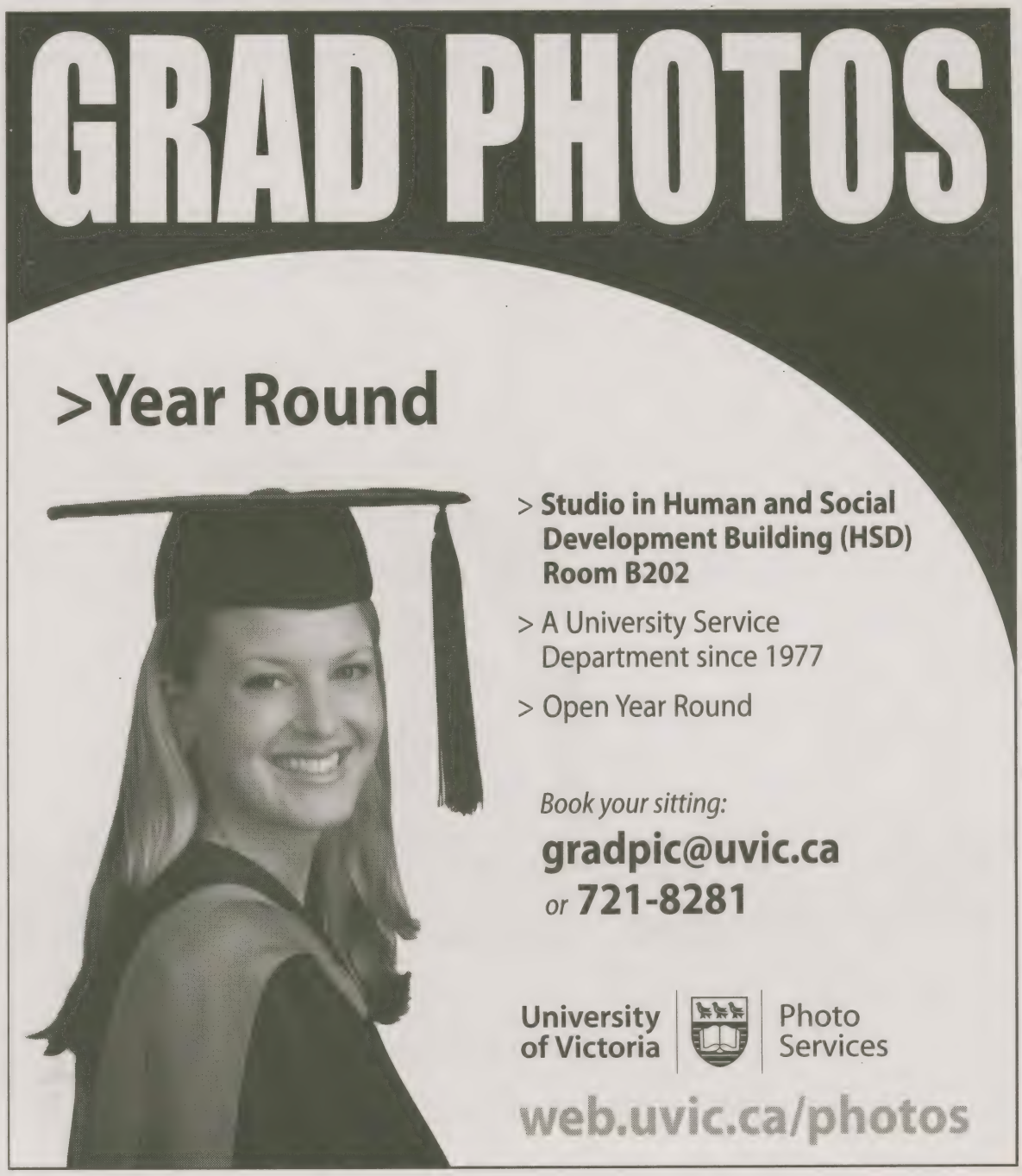
And I am most guilty. I spend hours each day pouring over content from the most prestigious (read: pretentious) media sites. When Pitchfork won't load I start hyperventilating; when someone repudiates my post on the AV Club, I cry myself to sleep; when Cokemachineglow.com doesn't update their content for three days, it seems like a crime against humanity. The blame can rightly be placed on the culture we live in. No matter what your level of participation, pop culture surrounds us. Whether or not you wish to engage and participate is up to you; I choose not only to engage, but also to dig a trench for a long relationship of attrition between pop culture and myself, because last time I checked, it didn't seem to be going anywhere. Which brings me to the topic of this week's column: can non-musicians credibly comment on, and criticize music? Let me start by outlining my musical deficiencies—I play drums rather badly, I make simplistic electronic music on my MacBook by looping drums and using a MIDI synth, and I have sang in a couple of failed bands. Basically, I have turned to music criticism to soothe the wounds that were inflicted by my failed rock-and-roll dreams.

I am clearly not alone in this pursuit. The hordes of twenty-something males who whore it up on message boards in a haze of self-indulged geekery are proof positive that no actual talent is necessary to be part of the musical machine. And consider this: music criticism sites really do make a difference in consumer habits. Forget Rolling Stone or Spin - when Pitchfork gave the Arcade Fire's "Funeral" a 9.7 out of 10, AF's record label sold out their entire inventory of the album within days. And this was long before the hype machine had turned AF into reluctant superstars.

Ever since Napster and iPod changed the way we experience music, the listener has become much more multifaceted. Suddenly, you can have whatever music you want with you wherever you are. One would think the likely outcome of this revolution would be the listener shunning outside opinions on what is good and what sucks. The modern music listener simply knows their taste much better than ever before. Surprisingly, quite the opposite has occurred. Perhaps, with so much to choose from, it is too overwhelming to go it alone.

Enter the world of online music criticism, manned primarily by those, like myself, who long to be part of the cultural landscape of music, but aren't lucky (read: talented) enough to be on the stage at your favourite bar, or touring the country, playing sold-out shows and drinking too much Jack Daniels. I propose that this makes us (the geeks) uniquely qualified for the job. Instead of practicing our licks and harmonies, we sit in front of our computers sorting through content from allmusic.com and listening to new releases through our stereo headphones. The collective experience of this geekinati allows us the pleasure of imparting knowledge of all things musical to others with a fairly clear conscience. I mean hey, we know our shit, so it's only right that we spread the wealth, right?

Not all would agree with this assertion, especially one Kevin Brereton, a.k.a. K-os. Right before the release of his latest album, "Atlantis: Hymns for Disco" (an album I somewhat panned in this very publication), Brereton slammed Now Magazine contributor Jason Richards for a sub-par review of the album in which he labeled K-os a "crossover pop artist disguised as a true-school b-boy." The gist was that A) Richards was a pawn of his "indie-rock nerd bosses," and B) that as a non-musician, Richards had no right to criticize a piece of work that he clearly couldn't create or even replicate himself. Ouch. Thankfully K-os doesn't read the *Martlet*, or I would be fucked. After careful consideration of what is a seemingly valid argument, I decided to keep criticizing, even though I can't put together a song 10 per cent as good as "Sunday Morning." The conclusion I came to is that as long as the album in question is listened to in-depth (meaning at least three times, and always in headphones) and proper research is done, it is our right as conscious music listeners to make our opinions known. The message boards aren't going to fill themselves, and life on the outside looking in is no fun. But don't get me wrong, I'm sure even Michael Buble gets more action than Jason Richards—and Buble's biggest fan is your mom. Snap.



Trio dances the night away

by Tessa Bingham

The Arbutus Trio, a band from Victoria, started playing shows less than two years ago, and is quickly rising in popularity in Victoria's music scene.

The band is made up of three friends who knew each other in high school. Jordan Stubbs rocks the drums, Kile Plantinga keeps rhythm on the bass, and Justin Bones belts out lyrics and plays guitar to form a mix of roots, rock, reggae and dub.

"Basically," said Bones, "if Elvis Costello was put in a cave with King Tubby and forced to fight to the death while listening to Slayer ... that's us!"

However you classify it, the Arbutus Trio's music is sure to make your legs move and your head bop with its lively beats. Not only is their music great, but this is a band with great stage presence. They are always joking with each other and encouraging audience involvement. The band feeds off the energy from dancing fans, making for a great show.

"The best part of playing in the band, other than being able to tour with my awesome friends, is watching people genuinely happy and dancing to our music. It depresses me if people don't," said Plantinga.

The Trio, which is touring Canada for the month of March, will be playing across the country as far as Montreal. Plantinga starts talking a mile a minute at the first mention of the tour.

"I'm so incredibly stoked." And then, with a laugh, "I'm a little scared for the loss of my bandmates due to deaths from accidents and alcohol overdoses."

Although they're often heard poking fun at one another, it's all good-natured. There doesn't appear to be anything breaking up the band anytime soon.

"I hate Jordie more than I hate anything in the world! No, seriously though, they're my best friends and I love being able to play music and experience so many wonderful times with them," said Plantinga.

Previously, the Trio has toured around Vancouver Island and some of the outer islands, as well as Vancouver.

Although most venues they've played have been positive experiences, there have been one or two with shortcomings.

"We once played a show in Duncan. We spent time and money and were rushing around the Island trying to assemble gear, and when we made it up there, there were no people, no posters, no one except the guy who put it on. And we did not see a dime, just a free bag of popcorn. The popcorn was good, but not good enough," said Bones.

The Arbutus Trio has a lot of political content in many of their songs and even played at the legislature last month as part of the rally to reduce tuition fees.

They kick-started their tour here in Victoria on Feb. 23 at Steamer's Pub with opening acts Manitario and The EliXXXirs. Be sure to keep an eye out for more local shows upon their return, as they're a band worth putting your dancing shoes on for.

PROVIDED PHOTO

The Arrogant Worms have embarked on an international tour.

Fun for the whole family

Canadian comedy trio keeps humour appropriate.

by Hilary Agro

The Arrogant Worms may have the least accurate band name in the music business.

From their start at a radio station in Kingston, Ont. to international touring today, these three humble jokers rose to fame by capitalising on our trademark self-deprecating Canadian humour.

With songs like "Canada Is Really Big," "A Night In Dildo" (keep your pants on, it's a town in Newfoundland) and "Me Like Hockey," their Canadian appeal spans from the Atlantic to our own B.C. shores, where they are currently touring, having played the Alix Goolden Hall in Victoria on Wednesday March 7.

In an interview with Chris Patterson, singer and bass player for the Worms, he said that they always enjoy coming out here. "It's funny, because there were several years where we didn't play Victoria at all; there wasn't a promoter that would have us in ... I remember the first time we played here, there were four or five hundred people there, and we thought 'oh wow, this is great, we should ignore every town in Canada for a few years,'" he joked.

"Victoria is one of the most raucous audiences that we play to in the country. All that stuff about Victoria being nice and calm and reserved is just baloney—at our shows, anyway."

The Worms keep their energized musical comedy PG, knowing that their audience is as varied as it gets. "We certainly write knowing that it's an all-ages crowd," said Patterson. "The worst word I think we say is 'ass,' and we don't go much further than that." But don't worry, university students, they have songs for you as well. The lyrics of "Drink With Me" ring eerily true for any undergrad: "Have a drink to your health / Then go and throw up on yourself!"

Despite the satirical nature of their songs, often poking fun at Americans as well as anucks, the Worms get few complaints. "People can get offended by anything, you know. With our song 'The Last Saskatchewan Pirate,' people could say, 'Well, aren't you being demeaning to pirates?'" said Patterson. "You never know." They sometimes have problems with "Jesus' Brother Bob," a song from the point of view of the neglected brother of Jesus. "If we're in the Southern U.S., there's a good chance that someone might try to off us for that one."

Having visited the States several times and with a recent tour to our Commonwealth neighbours in the U.K., their humour is certainly not lost on the rest of the world. Patterson considers travelling the best and worst part of his job. "The travel is the most exciting but also the most grinding thing of it all. It's a pretty remarkable feeling to have people come and want to watch you work. Accountants don't get a big crowd when they're doing taxes, but people actually come and watch us work. That's still a kick for us, 15 years into it."

Because of how widely known the Worms are, some other Canadian humour songs have been wrongly credited to the Worms thanks to internet filesharing, such as the popular "Toronto Sucks," by Three Dead Trolls In A Baggie.

"Not only do we not hate Toronto, but that's not our song," said Patterson. "So they [the Trolls] clearly have some sort of beef with Ontario. That's fine; we don't. There are a couple of songs out there that have been misattributed to us, and that needs to be cleared up."

However, the most popular comedy songs within Canada remain Arrogant Worms originals. "Apparently, in Saskatchewan and Alberta, they actually play 'The Last Saskatchewan Pirate' at dance clubs, which to us is just astounding," said Patterson. "In some pubs in Saskatoon, it's the last dance song of the night, which for us growing up was usually 'Stairway to Heaven,' but to each his own."

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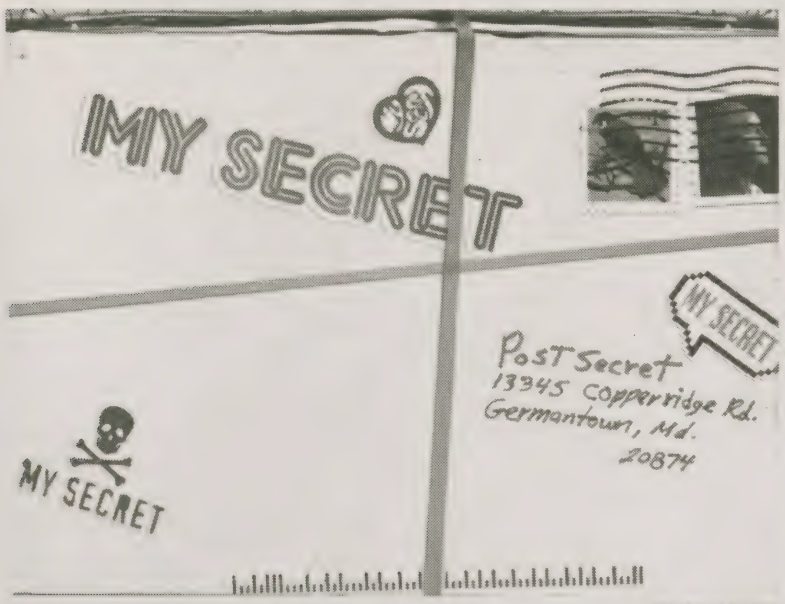

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BOOK REVIEW

College secrets

My Secret
Compiled by Frank Warren
Regan (an imprint of Harper-Collins Publishers)

by Sam Van Schie

Folks that haven't heard of PostSecret are fast becoming a minority. Each week the art project, based out of one man's house in Maryland, receives hundreds of submissions from around the world on four-by-five-inch postcards.

The anonymous cards creatively share senders' never-before-told secrets. A simple concept maybe, but one that has attracted attention from newspapers and television reporters, spawned an award-winning blog and a travelling art exhibit, and filled three popular books, including this one.

The project's founder, Frank Warren, is commonly called the most trusted man in America. He started receiving cards in October 2004 after leaving 3,000 self-addressed postcards in public places that asked finders to share a secret on the reverse side. And the cards have been coming ever since.

The book's cover is designed to look like a bundle of postcards, and inside, readers get a peek into Warren's mailbox. This book, dedicated to his daughter, specifically features secrets from high school and post-secondary students.

It's hard not to relate with the emotions portrayed inside. Feelings of loneliness, shame, betrayal and depression are juxtaposed with more light-hearted cards confessing love, guilty pleasures and silly habits.

One card written in blue marker admits "I lick the inside of microwave popcorn bags" with popcorn pieces drawn in yellow. Another is a photo of a graduation cap with "I forgot to plan what happens next" written across it in white-out pen. My favourite is a young girl in a photo-booth sequence holding white strips of paper over her eyes that together read: "I'm scared I'll always go into the photo booth alone."

This book is hard to put down. It draws you in on an artistic and inspirational level. You can see the courage in the cards—the strength it took to release a guarded secret to the world by post. Whether a cryptic note on a photograph or simple revealing phrase punched out on a typewriter, somebody made it. It could have been the person sitting next to you, and at some point, it could be you.

Looking at the cards helps reveal long-suppressed secrets—the ones we keep even from ourselves, things difficult to admit. But airing a secret always helps us feel better. Perhaps this is why the project is so successful. It offers a venue for personal release to a global community of people doing the same.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Immaculate Machine ride the wave.

New New Pornographers

by Megan Drysdale

It's difficult not to write Immaculate Machine off as the new New Pornographers. To be fair, the fact that singer/keyboardist Kathryn Calder is the long-lost niece of New Pornographers frontman Carl "A.C." Newman brings the band immediately to mind. Nonetheless, there are a number of parallels between the two groups that can't be ignored. Both bands play twee pop with alternating vocalists. Duo JC/DC (comprised of John Collins and Dave Carswell) produced New Pornographers' and Immaculate Machine's debut albums, as well as half of Immaculate Machine's second album. Additionally, both bands are signed to Vancouver's Mint Records and released albums in September 2005.

There must be something I'm missing, though. Immaculate Machine played at Logan's Pub last Saturday night and the crowd seemed to love it; while I was interviewing singer/guitarist Brooke Gallupe on the stage, a fan came up to him with a CD to sign, something I have not witnessed at a Victoria show since the *Make Up the Breakdown* days of Hot Hot Heat.

The Saturday show was held as a warm-up for their two dates at the South by Southwest Music Festival held in Austin, Texas. Gallupe admits they needed the practice because they had never played the songs before. "We knew how they were supposed to sound but didn't know exact keys," he said.

"We wrote it all in a panic, but then recording was a slow process," said Gallupe about their new disc *Fables,* due to be released in May. They thought the album would take three weeks to record, and it ended up being a three-month project with long hiatuses. Switching producers halfway through the album may have slowed them considerably.

Gallupe seems happy with his decision to drop JC/DC and work with Colin Stewart, who has also produced bands like Black Mountain and Pretty Girls Make Graves. Instead of working in a studio, Stewart came from Vancouver to Victoria and made a studio in Gallupe's childhood home.

"It was a very different recording process with Stewart," said Gallupe. "He's into trying a lot of wacky stuff to see what works. This album has a lot more weird instruments and more layers."

While Immaculate Machine wasn't completely happy with the way things were working out with JC/DC, it did offer them a unique experience.

As illustrated in a comic strip on their MySpace blog, the band was stuck on a particular spot in a song. Right then, Nardwuar, music journalist and frontman of the Evaporators, who was giving the Cribs and Franz Ferdinand's Alex Kapranos a tour of Vancouver, stopped by the studio and agreed to record a track right then and there. Owen Pallett, a.k.a. Final Fantasy, also has a guest appearance on the album.

For Immaculate Machine fans who can't wait until May, look for *Les Uns Mais Pas Les Autres,* an EP of songs from 2005's *Ones and Zeros,* rerecorded in French. Currently working on a master's degree in French literature, Gallupe was able to write his own translations of the songs.

"We did it out of boredom," said Gallupe. "When we signed with the label, we had to start planning strategically. So there's a two-year wait between albums, and we mostly just had nothing to do."

Still, even knowing all this, I can't seem to get into the band. Hopefully they'll have the longevity the New Pornographers have enjoyed to prove me wrong.

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One-legged snail

by Briony Wright

An eccentric broomstick-wielding blonde and a dinosaur piñata that refuses to break; this is anything but a typical poetry reading.

One-Legged Snail, a new open mic poetry group, launched on Feb. 15 with poet laureate Carla Funk whacking a festive piñata.

Thanks to One-Legged Snail, you can enjoy a muffin, coffee and live poetry performances on a bimonthly basis. Cornerstone Café hosts the event every second Thursday at 7:30 p.m., but to get a seat you'll have to be early.

One-Legged Snail was created after a group of UVic poetry enthusiasts saw that there were few organizations for budding talents "outside the world of academia," as Nisa Malli puts it. Malli is a UVic student who collaborated with Garth Martens and Colleen Saunders to create One-Legged Snail.

Other poetry groups, such as Planet Earth Poetry (PEP), are directed more toward established poets, according to Martens. PEP, which takes place at the Black Stilt Coffee House every Friday at 7:30 p.m., has hosted poets such as John Barton, Sid Tafler, Barbara Pelman and David Cavanagh. Although PEP has an open mic before the featured readers, Martens understands that it can be intimidating for new poets.

"Planet Earth is very open, you can really read anything you want and there's no sense of censorship, but at the same time, a lot of them are older, and when you get up there you don't always feel comfortable reading," Martens says. "No one loses anything by having another poetry reading. We support each other."

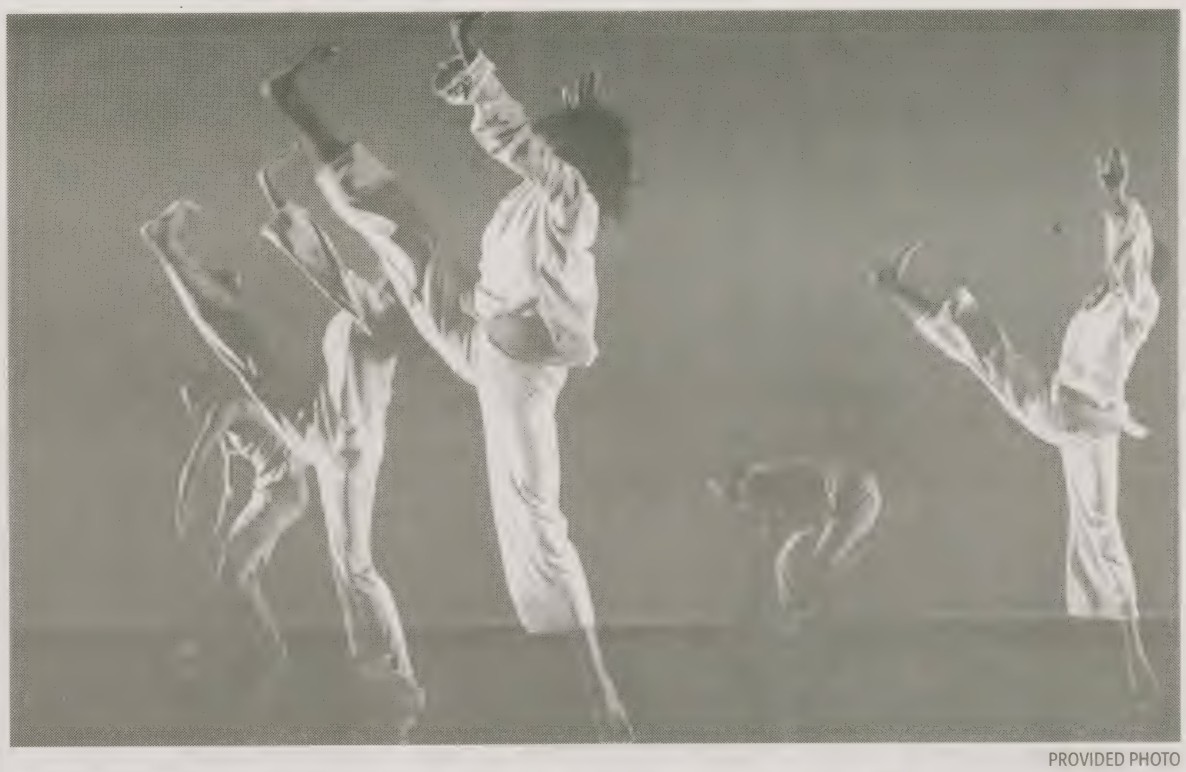
Funk, who often reads at PEP, began the night with a half-hour reading of her poetry. "A love poem for socks" seemed to be a crowd favourite.

The only thing to disrupt the audience's rapt attention was the stream of caffeine-addicted students filtering in. Later, as Funk recited "Dream Speak," the room was packed to capacity and the audience was lost in the world of rhythm and words.

Then came the student niche One-Legged Snail collaborators had hoped to reach. A steady line of poets and writers eagerly came forward to read their work. The wide variety of talent included everything from Rod Newman playing his concertina alongside Garth Martens' poem "Patience" to Ally Johnson's poem "The Accordion Mender's Wife" to Janine Young's rhythmic prose. From the moments of quiet appreciation to the enthusiastic applause, it was obvious that the readers weren't the only ones taking something from the experience.

As Martens explains, open mic poetry isn't just for other poets. "People who have never read poetry are being affected. You don't need to study it to be moved."

Wendy Morton, a celebrated poet, said she learned to read her poetry at open mic nights. Morton recalls her first time reading in public. "I was scared blue," she says, "but [open mic nights] are essential. The goal is to give a voice to anyone who wants to say something about themselves or their world."



PROVIDED PHOTO

Ailey II dancers came to Victoria from New York and brought blues and jazz.

And all that jazz

by Micah Luxen

The curtains part and one man stands alone onstage. An African rhythm jolts through his body, throwing his movements across the floor.

The scene lasts only a moment, transformed at the sight of a woman dressed in a gown who floats onto the floor with a presence that envelopes the entire theatre. Additional dancers join her, only to be swept up, like a lullaby, in the folds of her dress. The epic music swells and she is cloaked in nothing less than fairy-tale enchantment and an abundance of layers that follow her sway.

On Feb. 27 and 28, in one of the most magical dance performances to come to Victoria, Ailey II, a dance troupe out of New York, with roots in the segregated South and the social dance scene of that time, graced the stage of the Royal Theatre. The founder, Alvin Ailey, is well regarded for his shows, which are infused with the sound and style of blues and jazz.

Indeed, the keys of the piano hit hard and the beat was bold as dancers performed eight pieces, many inspired by the progression of jazz. Beautiful women snapped their fingers in true Motown fashion, performing in the playful style of The Supremes, followed by men with a similar style. Bright costumes fell from the dancers' lean silhouettes to the floor, revealing only the clean lines of their ever-moving bodies.

Finally, dancers cleared the stage to make room for two lovers who were seemingly entranced in their intimacy. The lifts and turns were so tender and aesthetically pleasant that even the dancers might have believed their movement signified an eternity of emotion. The audience, too, barely let out a breath for fear they might break the true love turned dance.

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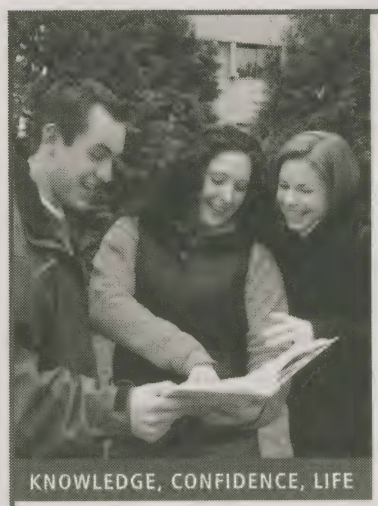

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CD REVIEWS

Anal bum cover

Mother Mother
Touch Up
Last Gang Records

by Sam VanSchie

You have to be in the right mood to appreciate Mother Mother. Fanciful lyrics and dizzying harmonies aren't for everyone. And perhaps it's the rooster on the cover or the cowbell in the lead track that has me thinking of a hootenanny. The local patrons at Logan's Pub would probably love it.

I'd love to conveniently classify this band into some subgenre to help you quickly decide whether it's worth checking out. Anti-pop (whatever that means) is the first word that comes to mind. Or some other classification that starts with post- or ends in -esque. This band shamelessly mixes everything from bluegrass to hip-hop, sometimes in a single track. Hey, something for everyone, right? And a hell of a lot better than power chords and whiny lyrics. This might catch on.

The five-piece Vancouver band recently signed to Last Gang Records (home of such popular Toronto bands as Metric, MSTRKRFT and Death From Above 1979) to release *Touch Up*. Music-savvy listeners might recognize most of the songs from the band's less-manufactured self-titled record, released independently in 2005, or from its many festival gigs last summer. Their song "Train of Thought" was played on CBC Radio 3 Podcast last month and their faces were featured in *The Toronto Star* last summer.

What's the hype about? Their lyrics are catchy and satirical, and their sound is truly original. While there is a fine line between intriguing and annoying, I'm leaning toward the former. This band knows what they're doing—and even when what their doing is singing in nasal voices or making fun of "Mr. Sandman"—they do it well.

Bloc Party
A Weekend in the City
V2 UK

by Brandon DeLyzer

Blocheads, put away your dance shoes. Although occasionally revisiting their funky ice-cool punk sound of 2005's *Silent Alarm*, Bloc Party's second album, *A Weekend in the City*, is less about the party and more about the sobering cab ride home from the club and the hangover the next morning.

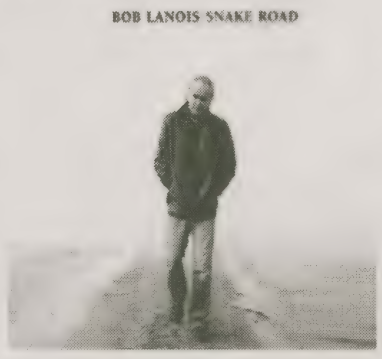
It's hard to believe that they were scheduled to tour with emo dance kings Panic! At the Disco last fall until drummer Matt Tong was hospitalized with a collapsed lung.

It's sad to see vocalist Kele Okereke drown his spunky rhythmic voice in reverb, but the lyrics are brilliantly confessional without being too melodramatic. "I love you in the morning, when you're still strung out," Okereke sings on "Sunday," a track that best shows off the concert grandeur sound of *Weekend*. Sometimes this epic approach works, and sometimes it doesn't. Some songs have as much force and passion as an opera, while others are tiring, taking too long to climax.

One thing still intact from Silent Alarm is the band's quirkiness. "The Prayer," a song with a catchy hymn acting as the bass, makes you feel as if you're at some sort of sacrificial ritual.

And don't worry when you get to "Hunting for Witches." Your CD isn't scratched; it's just a jerky avant-garde intro.

So if you liked Bloc Party for their sexy, shout-heavy dance punk, go pick up the *Silent Alarm Remixed* album or check out Gang of Four instead. If you're sick of the dance-rock trend and want something inventive and daring, A Weekend in the City is essential to own.



Bob Lanois
Snake Road
Cordova Bay

by Laurie Graham

Bob Lanois—rough-edged harmonica virtuoso and brother of famed producer/arranger/musician Daniel (yes, that Lanois)—has made what can only be called an album of miniatures.

Snake Road, Lanois's first solo effort, not only has the power to incite visions, but it does so in a tiny, unassuming amount of time: most songs never see the three-minute mark, and the entire album tops out at well under half an hour. The economy used here is impressive. It's like a punk album in that respect.

But any similarity to punk begins and ends there. This is a quiet little album, folkish and haunted. Lanois, with his shuddering, faraway breathing style, weaves through traditional, Quebecois-influenced tunes like a man possessed by ghosts.

These nine songs tell stories and are musically dramatized by brother Daniel as such—at times laced with reggae rhythms, at times taking on the sounds of a carnival, at times nodding through an old swing rhythm.

In "The Vampire," the album's first track, the melody is set up as an artifact, something belonging to the past (or sounding so, anyway), something Lanois seems to drag from a lonely wood to mingle with the supporting instruments of the metropolitan present.

Snake Road continues along this gradual, juxtaposed course; Bob's harp melodies both rail against and settle in with Daniel's arrangements, and the result is a highly dramatic and dramatized group of songs.

The Shins
Wincing the Night Away
Sub Pop

by Kevin Ehman

Why didn't I run into Natalie Portman in the lobby of some random doctor's office? Maybe then The Shins could have changed my life. Oh wait, I guess they kind of did, but in a far more minor way—that is to say a heightened appreciation for '60s-throwback pure indie pop (P.S. I love how every Shins review must include a reference to this "cult" movie, possibly the most ubiquitous piece of indie culture of the 2000s).

Anyway, back to the topic at hand: The Shins' new album, *Wincing the Night Away*. The third album from New Mexico's finest export comes as the first big release of 2007 for Seattle's Sub Pop Records, the same label that just last year gave us Band of Horses' excellent *Everything All the Time* and Chad VanGaalen's mind-boggling *Skelliconnection*.

Opening with the slow-burning "Sleeping Lessons," *Wincing* immediately shows its promise. Starting as a classic Shins indie hum-along, the track builds in volume and tempo, ending up as a full-out rocker, daring the listener not to drum on the steering wheel and sing along shamelessly.

Other standouts include the first single, "Phantom Limb," with its infinite dream-pop ending, and "Split Needles," with its shifting drum line and eerie synths. As always, singer James Mercer's croon is the defining element throughout the record, as he possesses one of the most truly unusual and memorable voices in indie rock.

Diehard fans of *Oh, Inverted World* and *Chutes Too Narrow* might find the production levels too high ("Australia"), and the occasional programmed drums ("Sea Legs") discomforting, but in the end, Wincing is exactly what you would expect from a band 11 years in the making: music that is as evolved as it is shiny and happy.

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TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 6TH

* means Canadian artist. † means local artist.

1. ARCADE FIRE *
   Neon Bible (Merge)
2. DOUG COX & SALIL BHATT *
   Slide To Freedom (Northern Blues)
3. VARIOUS †
   Aaargh Annual: Year Two (Aaargh)
4. APOSTLE OF HUSTLE *
   National Anthem Of Nowhere (Arts & Crafts)
5. GEOFF BERNER *
   The Wedding Dance Of The Widow Bride (Jericho Beach)
6. MARNIE STERN
   In Advance Of The Broken Arm (Kill Rock Stars)
7. DO MAKE SAY THINK *
   You, You're A History In Rust (Constellation)
8. OF MONTREAL
   Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer? (Polyvinyl)
9. EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY
   All Of A Sudden I Miss Everyone (Temporary Residence)
10. EMILIE SIMON
    The Flower Book (Milan/Barclay)

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GORDON LEE/UVIC VIKES

The Vikes men's rowing team grimaces as they push themselves to the limit in the Elk Lake Spring Regatta, which took place March 3 and 4 in holy water.

UVic rowing crews dominate in blessed Elk Lake waters

Vikes win gold medals in eight races at event in Saanich

by David Karp

It was a successful weekend for the Vikes at their hometown 32nd Annual Elk Lake Spring Regatta on March 3 and 4.

Over 1,000 fans showed up to watch the regatta, one of two events the Vikes host at Elk Lake each year. The other event is the Head of the Elk, which takes place in October. At this month's event, there were 85 races.

The regatta had a hiccup early on when thick fog forced evemts to be postponed for an hour. But the fog cleared and the races were allowed to resume.

When they did, rowers Hilary Whetung-Cole and Evan Wilson grabbed UVic's first gold medal, winning the women's open pairs.

The men's junior varsity team of eight rowers also won their race, beating out high school students from Shawnigan Lake School and Vancouver College.

The second day was a little more windy, but that didn't prevent six Vikes crews from winning their events.

Both the four-person coxed men's and women's trumped the competition, with the women winning by a boat length. The men won by two boat lengths over second-place Oregon State. Another Oregon boat finished third in the men's race.

Both of UVic's men's and women's teams took home gold medals in the junior varsity coxed fours, as well as in the open quads race.

But a strong Oregon State women's squad got the better of UVic in a few races. Their varsity coxed eight team beat UVic by 10 seconds, while their junior varsity coxed eights and novice coxed eights also outrowed UVic by healthy margins.

UVic may have received some divine intervention for the event. The Vikes were racing in waters that were blessed by local Orthodox Christian priests in early January. Father John Hainsworth and Father Kosta Kaltsidis held a ceremony in front of almost 200 people, putting a cross in the water to make it holy. According to ReligionFacts.com, Alaskans sprinkle holy water on their fishing boats to help the fishermen be successful and safe.

UVic will now head south to the United States for a race hosted by the University of California at San Fransisco.

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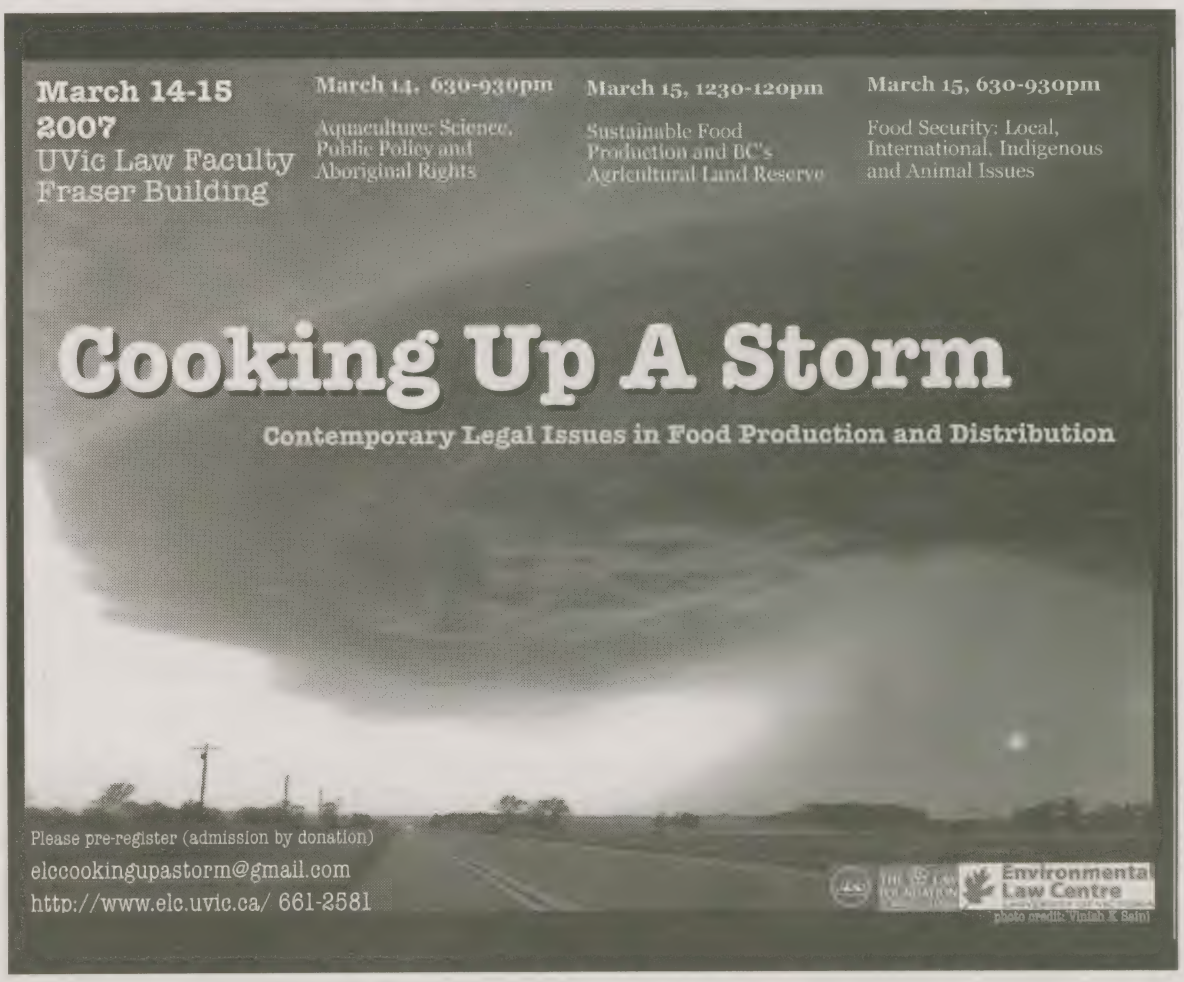
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WILLIE LI PHOTO

UVic engineering student Dustin Olender invented a device to stabilize bicycles.

Engineer invents top-secret device for stabilizing bikes

by Sam VanSchie

A UVic engineering student won top prize on March 1 in the sports innovation category at the IDC Invention Competition.

Dustin Olender, 27, is completing his doctorate but found time to design and test his invention which he ambiguously calls, "a device for improved stability on a bicycle."

Publicly releasing the details of his invention would jeopardize his ability to get it patented in some countries, so he was reluctant to give out too much information. Only he and the judges know exactly how the invention works.

But the device makes it possible to stop your bike and balance without putting your feet on the ground, he said.

"If you're at a red light and use toe clips [that attach your shoes to your peddles], it's really handy," said Olender.

An avid commuter cyclist, Olender has been using his invention since the beginning of February. He describes it as a simple device that he can clip on and off a bike in seconds and weighs less than 300 grams.

Others have tried to stabilize stopped bikes using gyroscopic technology, but Olender discovered something different. And within one month of his good idea, he had it on his bike, although he's still refining the design.

"I still want it lighter, stronger and more stable," Olender said.

He sees his main audience as commuter cyclists, and was surprised to find his device capturing attention from the judges—let alone winning— in the sports category.

"I figured I'd just put in an application and see what happened," said Olender. "It's hard to judge how good your own invention is."

It was good enough to beat Albert Penner from Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo, who took home both silver and bronze in the sports innovation category for a "training device that attaches to heavy punching bags" and a "device for measuring the speed of sports projectiles without radar" respectively.

The contest is in its first year and is open to students, faculty and recent graduates of UVic and other post-secondary institutions on Vancouver Island. There were also categories for grade school students.

Along with a glass trophy that now sits on his desk, Olender was awarded $1,500.

"That's more than enough to cover the cost of patenting it," he said, "and I also bought a new raincoat."

Two late goals on Burnaby secure rare win for Vikes

UVic beats Burnaby by a score of 2-1

by Gemma Karstens-Smith

The Vikes men's field hockey team rallied back from what coach Alan Williams called a "sloppy" first half to beat Burnaby 2-1 on March 4.

"We had lots of chances," said Williams, referring to shots that continuously ended up just wide of the post and a penalty shot by Derrick Norton that was shut down by the Burnaby goaltender.

Burnaby's Sunil Fernandes scored late in the first making it 1-0 at the break. "You're down a goal," Williams told his team at halftime. "You've got your purpose."

Tension was high as the second half began, with the Vikes having trouble getting the ball out of their own zone. There was a flurry of Day-Glo orange sticks chopping at the turf in an attempt to fire the ball back to Burnaby's end.

Finally, the Vikes hit their stride with less than ten minutes left in the game when Norton scored on a backhanded flick. Minutes later, Connor Meakin followed suit and put one past the Burnaby goalie, making the score 2-1.

"It was a tough first half," said Vike defender Kevin Snider. "But we fought hard, kept working hard."

It's been a tough season overall for the Vikes team, who moved up from playing in Division One to the Premier League this season. "It took some time—going from playing old guys past their prime to national level players," said UVic backup goalie Ian Cruickshank.

With first- and second-year players making up a majority of the team, it's been a building year for the Vikes, which have a 5-9-1 record this season. Williams said that playoffs were never a goal for this season, but are a realistic aim for next year.

Another goal for Williams is taking his team on tour through the Netherlands in August 2008. He says there's a lot of work to be done before then, however, both with practicing and with fundraising. "I want to offer them more than just league play," Williams said.

For now, there are still four games for the Vikes to focus on this season. To Snider, what's left of this year will be about "showing other teams what they can expect next year."

Next weekend the Vikes head over to UBC to play in the Newcastle Shield tournament. They'll return to the UVic turf to face the Island Selects in their final game of the season on March 17.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

UVic goalkeeper Jonathan Plumbley comes out to challenge a Burnaby attacker.

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Mar. 3 UVic 27 UBC 10

JOCK TALK

"You're down a goal. You've got your purpose."

- UVic men's field hockey coach Alan Williams preps his team at halftime

PROVIDED PHOTO

A hangboarder experiences the slopes of Mount Washington.

New board on the mountain

by Danielle Pope

Attention snowboarders, skiers and those out for a good time: there's something new on the slopes this season. You may have glimpsed it bulleting past. It's called the HangBoard.

Pilots hover from a T-shaped bar just a foot above the snow, while strapped into a harness much like a hang-glider's, and the whole apparatus is all attached to an old snowboard. Arms push against the handlebars, while feet rest in stirrups to work the brake rudders. You steer by shifting your body weight, and applying the brakes.

If this all sounds a little too exciting, it might be. While anyone with a bit of strength can become a hangboarder, Arney said the sport has "a mellow learning curve."

Because the frame is made of aircraft aluminum, the HangBoard's total weight, including snowboard, is that of a light mountain bike—about 14 kilograms. It is 160 centimetres long, 32 cm high when folded and 47 cm wide.

Don Arney, inventor of the HangBoard, is a businessman, skier and helicopter pilot from Saltspring Island. Arney said he came up with the idea for the HangBoard after a vision.

"I used to be very involved in hang-gliding," said Arney. "One morning I had an image of a person being suspended above a snowboard in a hang-gliding harness."

The thought exhilarated Arney and propelled him to start work on what would become the HangBoard. This isn't his first invention—in 1986, he won a Manning Innovation Award of Merit for Firefighting for creating the Bambi Bucket, used by helicopters to fight forest fires.

With the help of skiing friends Peter Brooke and Everest MacDonald, several prototypes for the HangBoard were created and secretly tested up-Island near Mount Washington. But it wasn't until 2004 when the team, including designer Charles Buchwald, created more successful models that test pilots could offer feedback on. Now the HangBoard can be taken through high jumps, spins, moguls and powder.

"When you first start to hangboard, you manoeuvre using the rudders and brakes exclusively," said Arney. "This is quite demanding in terms of upper-body [fitness]. As you progress, you begin to master turns which involve weight shifting."

Weight shifting requires much less energy, according to Arney, though he still labelled this the perfect "cross-training" activity and said someone in good shape could hangboard all day.

There are logical benefits to Arney's invention, too. Having the pilot suspended at an angle makes the centre of gravity lower than if they were standing, so the ride is more stable and the HangBoard can work in all snow conditions. And since hangboarding keeps the body close to the ground, speeds feel faster than they actually are, which means less is needed for the same thrill—but don't think speed isn't there.

"When you are hangboarding, the pilot's body is in the same position as a ski jumper's," said Arney, "which means there is much less aerodynamic drag. Hence, a hangboarder can go significantly faster than either a skier or snowboarder."

Thrill aside, safety has been the main focus for Arney. Not only do the HangBoard's brakes give greater control to the pilot, but closeness to the ground means the pilot has less distance to fall. In addition, the upper bar works as a protective roll cage.

While pilots are advised to wear helmets and kneepads, actual injuries are similar to those from other snow sports—though a crash in the HangBoard is more like rolling onto your side. Handlebars stick into the snow, so sliding isn't a concern, and you can push yourself upright with your hand.

As far as battling chairlifts goes, the HangBoard promises no problems. It can hook over the chair instead of dragging at your feet and folds easily for travel.

Don't look to snag one of the models just yet—the company won't be pricing the HangBoard until the next ski season. However, free demo trials can be booked online. And for anyone searching for a career opportunity, Arney is looking for motivated athletes to introduce hangboarding to the world, starting with Mount Washington.

Arney said his team is still improving the HangBoard. This year, a shock absorber was added for softer jump landings. As well as reducing the frame's weight, they will be inserting a digital accelerometer to measure G-forces.

Arney has big dreams for the HangBoard's future. "I could certainly see [hangboarding] becoming an Olympic sport," he said. "A lot of the people we teach tell us they dream about it for days afterwards."

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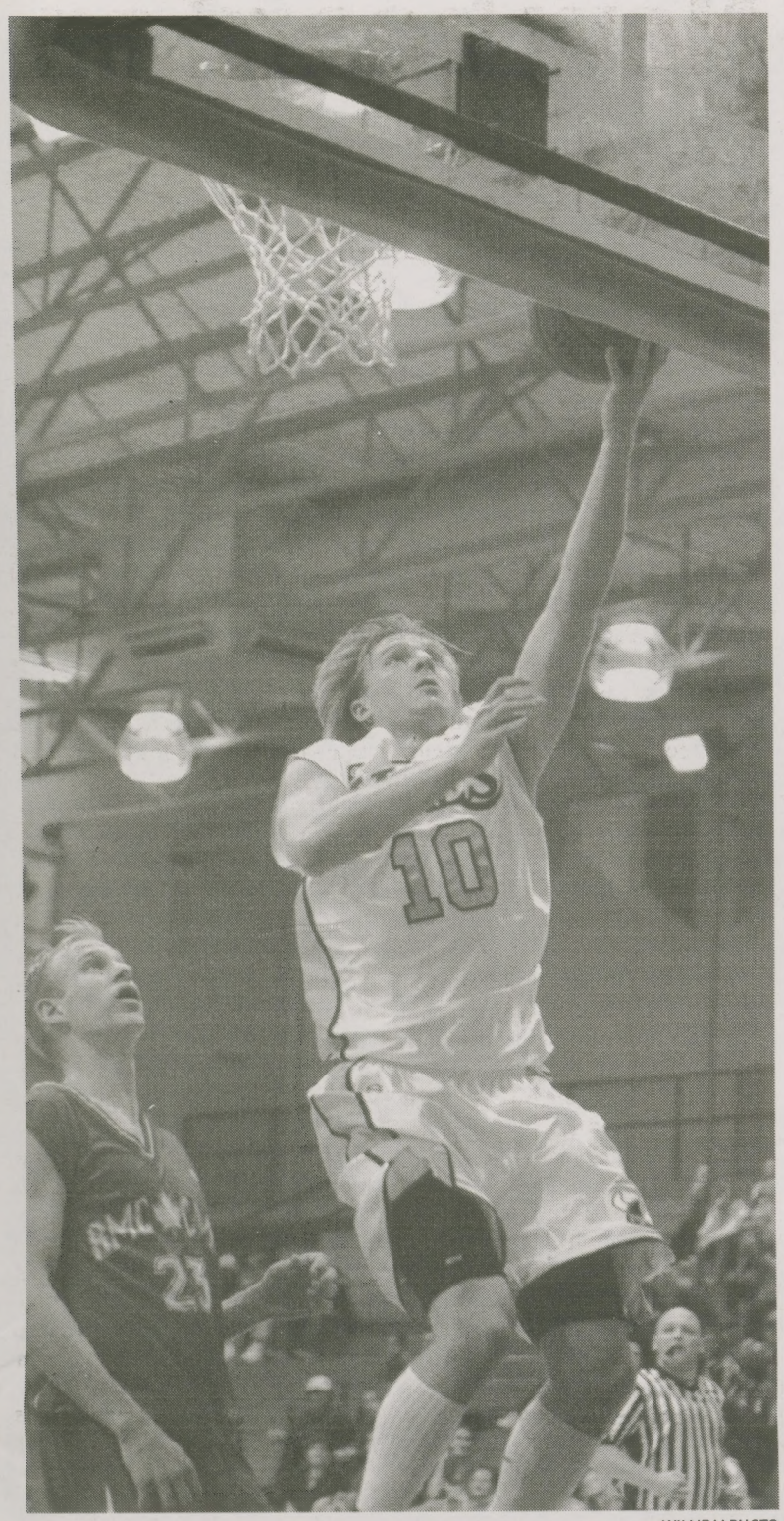
Ellis plans career in Europe



WILLIE LI PHOTO

The Vikes will miss Brandon Ellis's leadership—he's graduating.

by Hilary Agro

It's Brandon Ellis's last year with the Vikes, along with Graeme Bollinger and Steve Moore. The Vikes' season may have come to a disappointing end, but Ellis isn't done with basketball. Not by a long shot.

Ellis's university basketball career got off to a shaky start as a guard with the rival UBC Thunderbirds in 2001. Moving to Vancouver from his hometown of Campbell River, Ellis was surprised and disappointed with his first varsity experience. "I was there for two years, and they didn't teach me anything," he said. "I showed up, and once I got there it wasn't what I expected ... I wasn't on the same page as the coach. And when you're clashing with the coach, you get pushed down the list—they become unwilling to help you."

After two years with the Thunderbirds, Ellis had had enough. He planned to play college ball for a while before deciding on another university, but had to change his plans when he was hit by a bus in June 2003.

"I was in physio for about eight months," said Ellis. He had massive ligament tearing in his left lower leg below the knee, along with a talus bone break that doctors eventually found in a bone scan seven months later. "For a long while, I was being treated for the wrong things," he said.

About the time that he was finally healing, UVic was lucky enough to be chosen by the six-foot-three guard as his new home. And a good choice it was, as he began the start of a fantastic basketball career with the Vikes in 2004.

It was rough at first. "I had no confidence," said Ellis. "I hadn't played basketball in 10 or 11 months. The first scrimmage wasn't too bad, but then the next morning ... I couldn't move for about four or five days."

Ellis practiced with the Vikes during the summer of 2004 before starting his first season in September. "I didn't get my stride again until about November," he said. But when he got it back, there was no stopping him. He helped lead the team to the silver medal at the 2006 Canadian Interuniversity Sport National Championships, where he was named a tournament all-star.

"Being in a new school with a different coach and a different team made a huge difference," he explained. "Everybody on our team hangs out together—everybody likes each other. It helps having such good team chemistry, because everyone ends up wanting to win for each other. We practise harder. We want to succeed for the team, not just ourselves."

Ellis said that the fans also helped him enjoy his time at UVic. "The fan support here is amazing. I wish the university would allow the students to become more rowdy, but there are always complaints from the community—older people who come are disturbed."

Ellis is fortunate enough to have a full scholarship, meaning that finances were never a barrier to being able to devote his time to the Vikes. "There's no time for a job. The sport is a part-time job in itself."

Naturally, this takes a toll on grades. Ellis finds that with the amount of time basketball takes up, his GPA goes up tremendously when the season ends. "You have all this spare time, and suddenly you realize, 'Hey, I can get my homework done.'"

This season, Ellis had a senior role on the team, helping out the next generation of players. "I'm in my fifth year—they're in their first year," he said. "When you think about it, when you were graduating high school, they were just entering it, and now they're a big part of your life and they become some of your best friends."

Ellis, who has contacts in Greece, Sweden and Belgium, plans to play in a European pro league next year. He has no solid plans yet, but the European teams don't do their contract work until the middle of summer.

"I'm looking to play for a few more years, basically until my body can't handle it anymore," said Ellis, who is graduating with a degree in economics and plans to either pursue a master's of business administration degree or write the Chartered Financial Analyst exam.

When asked how he felt about the end of his time with the Vikes, Ellis responded, "It hasn't hit me yet. Being on the team has definitely changed my life for the better, because without a varsity sport I wouldn't know the people I know now."

Vikes falter in Final Four

UVic's men's basketball team lost both their matches at the Canada West Final Four tournament, shattering their hopes of heading to the national championship in Halifax.

The Vikes dropped their first match to the host Brandon Bobcats on March 2, losing 93-79.

In the consolation match against Saskatchewan the next day, the Vikes fell 82-77.

- David Karp

The Martlet is doing a story on student poverty.

Want to tell people what that really looks like?

Contact Hilary Agro | agro@uvic.ca

Montessori Teacher Training

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&
Elementary (6 - 12 years)

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Information Meeting
Wednesday March 14th, 7 PM

Angela Martin Montessori Training Centre
4052 Wilkinson Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 5A5
Phone (250) 479-4746 www.montessori.bc.ca

Semi-annual General Meeting
Graduate Students' Society

MEETING AGENDA:

1. Ratification of the chair
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Adoption of the October 2006 minutes
4. Executive report
5. Report and recommendations from the Stipend Committee
6. Report and recommendations from the GRC Committee to review CFS membership
7. Presentation and approval of the draft budget
8. Presentation of the Electoral Officer's report and ratification of election results
9. Consideration of motions that have been received with due notice
10. Other business

Deadline for submission of motions for changes to the Bylaws is Friday, March 16th at 4pm. Submissions can be made in writing to the GSS General Office or by email to gssmgr@uvic.ca. The bylaws are available both at the office and on the website.
AGM packages including draft budget, minutes, and motions are available in the GSS office and website March 19th at noon.

GSS
Graduate Students' Society
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
LOCAL 69 CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

Tuesday, March 27 at 5pm - Grad Centre
http://gss.uvic.ca
Refreshments Served

Men's rugby squad plunders UBC and steals The Boot-y

PHOTO COURTESY OF WILSON WONG/CITR FM

A mud-caked Chris Grant (right) passes off to UVic teammate Mat Kootchin while being tackled by UBC's Ben Jones. The Vikes visited UBC turf and made a big impact, winning 27-10—including 12 points from Steve Piatek. UVic also took home "The Boot" for the 10th year in a row as a prize for winning the annual two-game series between the two universities. The trophy is a bronzed cleat of former UBC coach Brian Wightman.

Classifieds maned@martlet.ca

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HELP WANTED

LAW STUDENT to look up some facts. CASH payment! watersphot58@shaw.ca John Douglas Spillane MPA.

I'm looking for a tutor for the sky. I would like to know what our Solar System is, Planets, Constellations, & some stars. Wage $12.00 an hr. or $12.50 your call. normanlewis@shaw.ca

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ON CAMPUS

BUDDHIST MEDITATION
UVic Interfaith Chapel, Tuesdays 6:45-8 p.m. 642-7936.
www.zenwest.ca

The Environmental Law Club has many upcoming events in throughout the year. Please visit www.elc.uvic.ca/club for details on speakers, activities and campaigns as they become available. Thank you. rachelsqf@gmail.com

The UVic Badminton Club hosts its annual Spring tournament March 10 & 11 at McKinnon Gym. The tournament is open to all comers with both singles and doubles events scheduled. Entry fees: $10 for one event (singles/doubles), $15 for both events, $5 late fee after March 4. For registration details visit http://web.uvic.ca/~smashing/ or email smashing@uvic.ca. Sponsored by UVic RecPlus, Centre Court Racquets and Yonex.

Campus Clean-up: Sat. Mar 10, meet @ campus security at 11 a.m. Come in a team (3-8 members) or individually. Prizes, food, and fun. Sponsored by the Student Ambassador Association.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVE IMPROV COMEDY
"Throw Us A Line Improv"
Wednesdays 8:30 Soprano's Karaoke Bar. NO COVER.

WISE WOMEN'S WELLNESS SESSIONS Are you interested in developing new communication skills, gaining confidence and connecting with other women? Every Tuesday 1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. until April 24, Call 363-2640 for more info.

RALLY TO END THE WARS OF OCCUPATION Please join the pan-Canadian day of action Saturday March 17th to call for an end to the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. Marking the 4th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, we must let our politicians know we will not sit idle while they lead us down this destructive path. The Victoria rally will be held at Centennial Square (Douglas and Pandora) at 12 noon and will include speakers, march, live music, and good spirits. More info at outofafghanistan@yahoo.ca

OUTDOOR TENNIS LEAGUE
Local tennis players are invited to participate in both singles and doubles tennis leagues organized to start in April. Deadline for registration is March 31st.
www.bctennisleagues.50megs.com

Come Dancing! Join Saanich International Folk Dancers Wednesdays and Fridays, at Fairfield United Church, 1303 Fairfield Road at 7:30. Instruction on Wednesdays. Drop-in $4; first visit free. Phone (250)598-6424 or (250)598-4089.

Chocolate Fest 2007 Fund-raiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Victoria. Enjoy Chocolate, Games, Wine and Beer! March 25, noon-6 p.m. Victoria Conference Centre www.chocolatefest.ca

Island Montessori is having a BBQ on March 24th, 2007 at M & M Meats (#14-3637 Shelbourne St.) from 11-3. Come and buy lunch for a minimum $2 donation and then take a look through the store for great tasting M & M products. There is also a raffle draw with a bike donated from Oak Bay Bikes and a gift basket donated from Calling All Cards. Tickets are $2 each and can be purchased at the store before or on the day of the BBQ. For more info. please phone 514-9391.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Volunteer Opportunity!
Interested in measuring sustainability at UVic? COME JOIN the UVSP in the campus sustainability assessment and gain valuable research experience! To find out more, email csafuvic@gmail.com, or come to an info session every Tuesday 14:30-15:30 (SUB B007)

Food Not Bombs serves free vegan food every Sunday at Vancouver and Pandora tree. Call 383-5144 x1940 for kitchen locations.

Notice to students in Education, Geography or Biology: Excellent volunteer opportunities at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. For more details e-mail Joan at: volunteer@swanlake.bc.ca

Hey! Why aren't ya volunteering with Uvic Pride already? Come be our social coordinator! Or something! uvicpride@uvss.uvic.ca Queers, Trans, Intersex and Allies... SUB B118

FOR SALE

Lotsa used bikes 4 sale $100-250 ReCyclistas @ 25 Crease Ave. 418-8867.

LOST

Bracelet with charms and amethyst stones. Social Club or Victoria Golf Club, Friday March 2. Very sentimental value, offering $100 reward. Please call 598-3331.

HEY YOU!

Atilla the Bun was a good rabbit (most of the time). He leaves behind Georgina Boutros-Boutros, Angela and Norman. We will miss him.

SAM & FUZZY
©2005 BY SAM LOGAN.
JUST LOOK AT THIS STUFF... DEVIL WORSHIP, POSSESSION AND EXORCISM, RITUAL SACRAFICE, TELEMARKETING...
WHY WOULD CANDICE HAVE A BOOK LIKE THIS?
IT'S CERTAINLY OVER MY HEAD. MY AREA OF EXPERTISE IS 21ST CENTURY DEPRAVITY, NOT ANCIENT EVIL!
I NEED AN EXPERT TO MAKE SENSE OF THIS.
AND FORTUNATELY, I KNOW JUST THE GUY!
RIKK! I NEED TO BORROW YOUR TWISTED MIND FOR A SECOND.
THIS BETTER BE GOOD, BEAR. YOU'RE INTERUPTING AN ARTISTIC BREAKTHROUGH!
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SLOSS!
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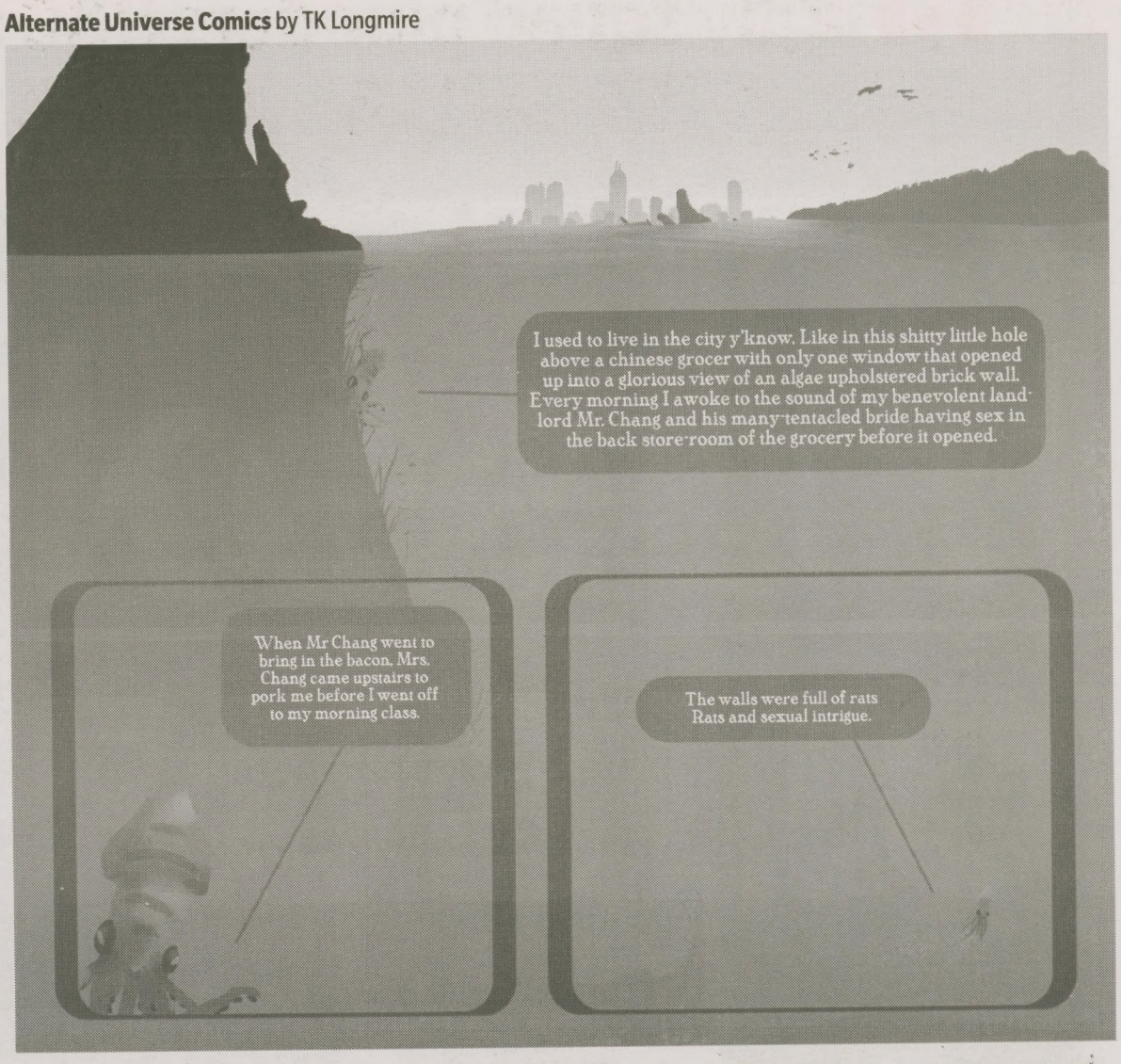
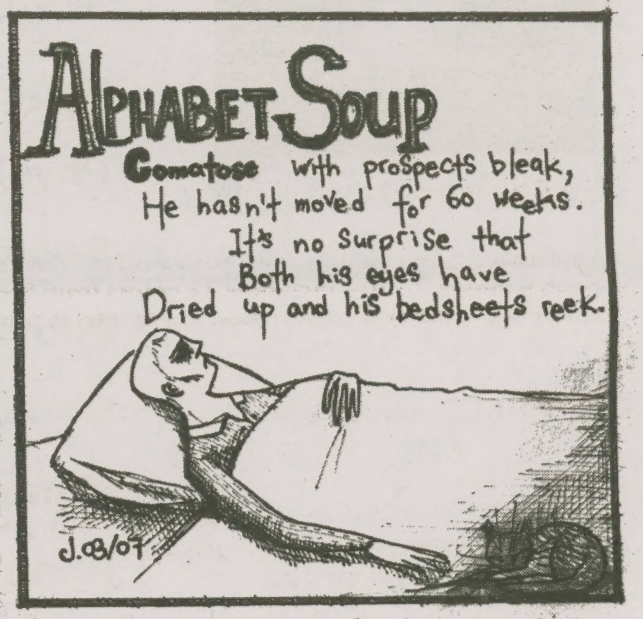
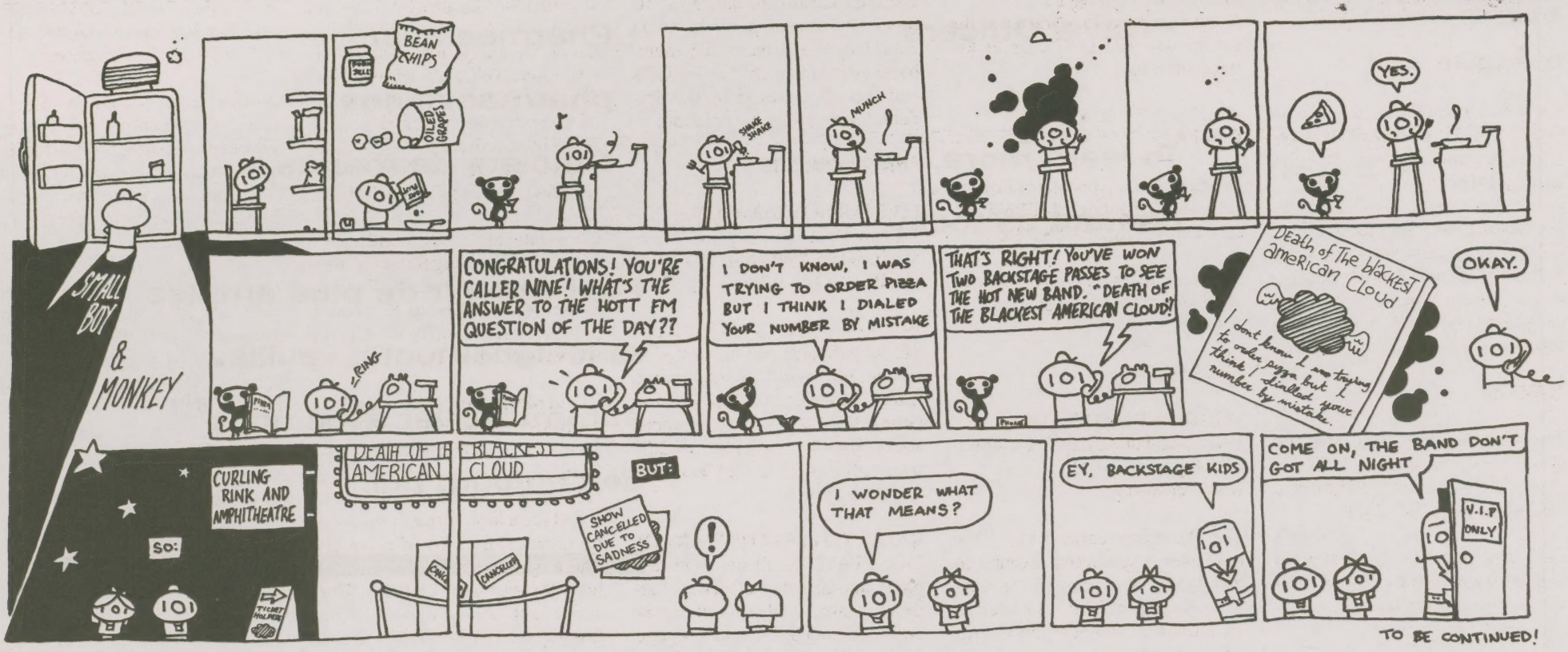
Alternate Universe Comics by TK Longmire


I used to live in the city y'know. Like in this shitty little hole above a chinese grocer with only one window that opened up into a glorious view of an algae upholstered brick wall. Every morning I awoke to the sound of my benevolent landlord Mr. Chang and his many-tentacled bride having sex in the back store-room of the grocery before it opened.
When Mr Chang went to bring in the bacon, Mrs. Chang came upstairs to pork me before I went off to my morning class.
The walls were full of rats
Rats and sexual intrigue.

Checkerpop by Marc Junker




SMALL BOY & MONKEY
BEAN CHIPS
OILED GRAPES
SNAKE SNAKE
MUNCH
YES.
RING
CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'RE CALLER NINE! WHAT'S THE ANSWER TO THE HOTT FM QUESTION OF THE DAY??
I DON'T KNOW, I WAS TRYING TO ORDER PIZZA BUT I THINK I DIALED YOUR NUMBER BY MISTAKE
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'VE WON TWO BACKSTAGE PASSES TO SEE THE HOT NEW BAND, "DEATH OF THE BLACKEST AMERICAN CLOUD!"
Death of The blackest american Cloud
I dont know I was trying to order pizza but I think I dialled your number by mistake.
OKAY.
CURLING RINK AND AMPHITHEATRE
SO:
DEATH OF THE BLACKEST AMERICAN CLOUD
CANCELLED
SHOW CANCELLED DUE TO SADNESS
BUT:
I WONDER WHAT THAT MEANS?
EY, BACKSTAGE KIDS
COME ON, THE BAND DON'T GOT ALL NIGHT
V.I.P ONLY
TO BE CONTINUED!

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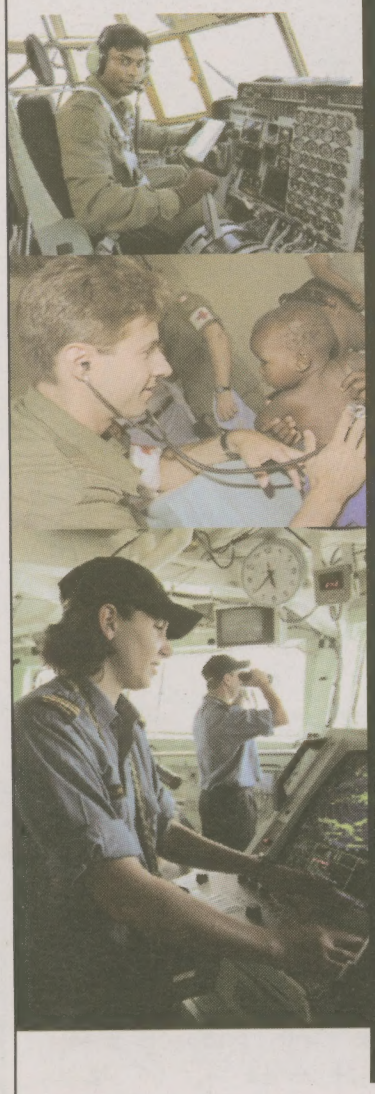

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